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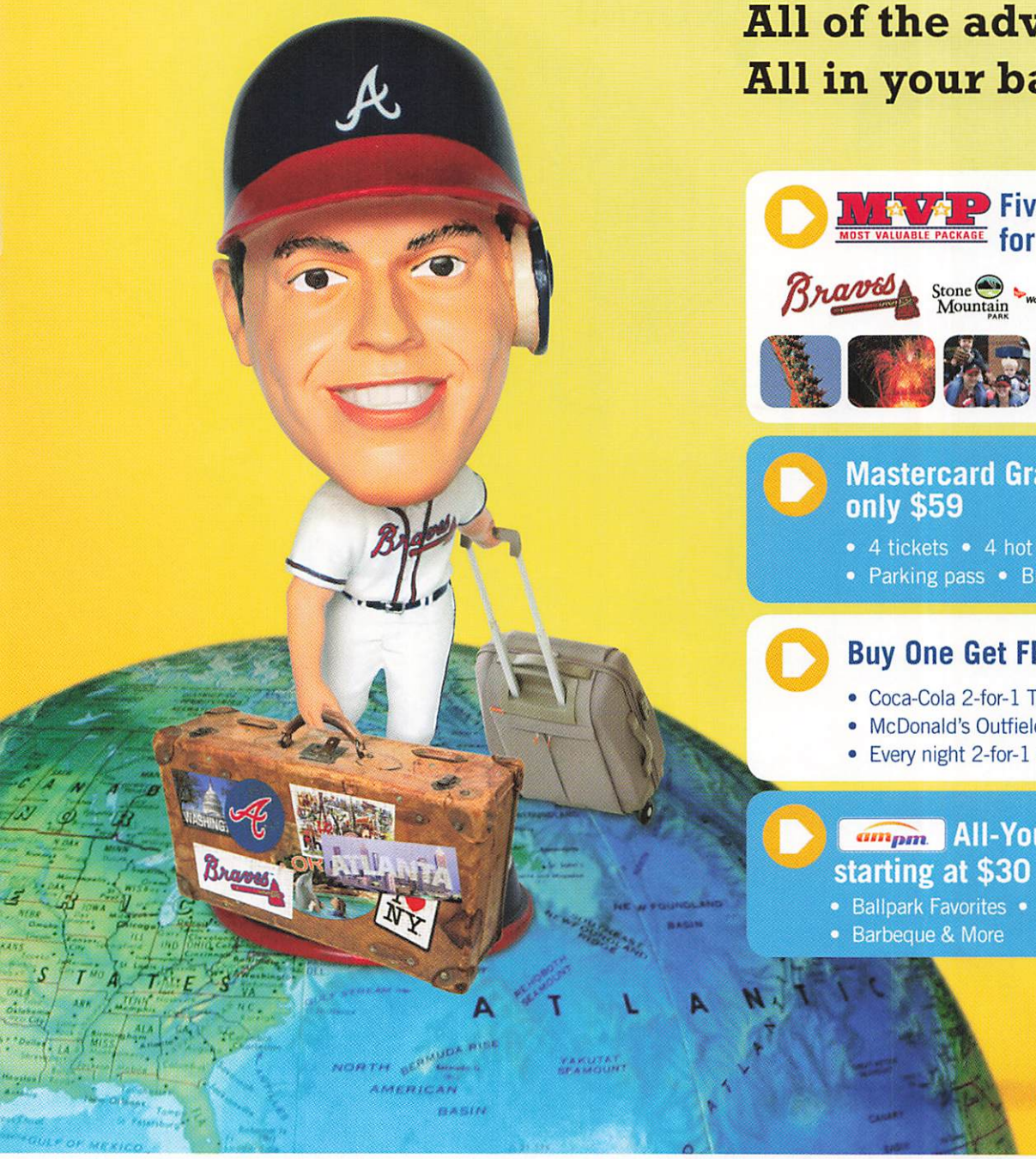


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# BATTING ORDER

AUGUST 2008

## POWER HITTERS


**6-10**
**HOME PLATE**
A Visit To The New Home Of Tom And Chris Glavine
By Patty Rasmussen

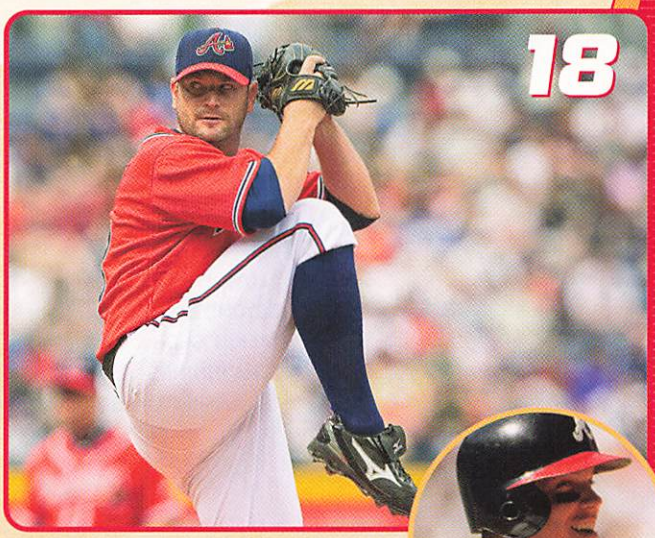
**18-19**
**PLAYING PEPPER**
A Highly Entertaining Q&A With Will Ohman
By Patty Rasmussen

**20-22**
**SURPRISE!**
Patchwork Pitching Staff's Unlikely Success Ranks As an "Organizational Triumph"
By Ray Glier

**24-26**
**CHIPPER THROUGH THE YEARS**
For Starters: A World Championship And Nearly The Rookie of The Year
By Jon Cooper

**28-30**
**LISTEN TO THE MUSIC**
Atlanta's Fertile Ground for Song Helps TV Outlets Spice Up Promos
By Jon Ross

**39**
**ALL-STAR GAME**
McCann Enters Just In Time for The End; Chipper Strokes First NL Hit
By Steve Gilbert of MLB.com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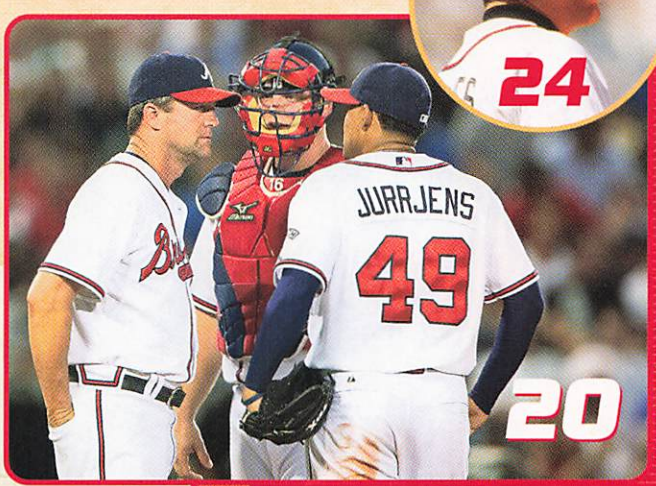
ATLANTA BRAVES

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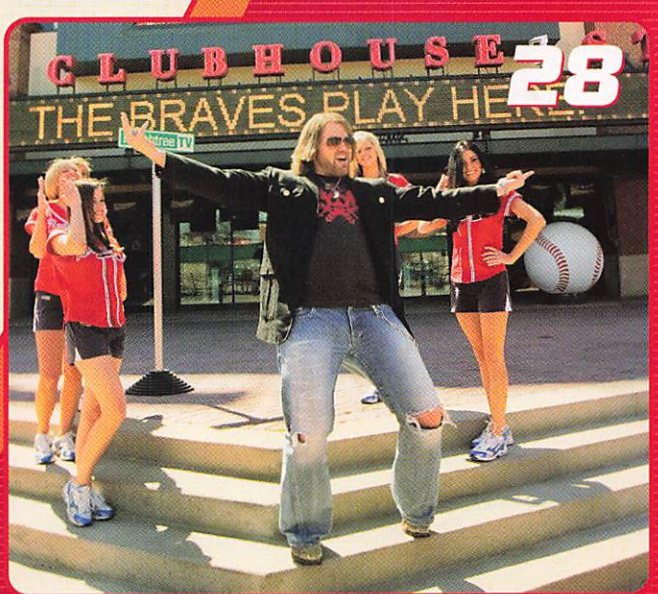


PEACHTREE TV

### COVER CREDITS

BRIAN McCANN AND CHIPPER JONES
by Andy Hayt

Chris and Tom Glavine
by Allison Shirreffs

Design by Clark Odom

# BATTING ORDER

AUGUST 2008

## SINGLES HITTERS


12-13 SCOREBOARD
14-15 BUNTS & BASEHITS
16-17 OFF THE FIELD
32-33 THE BIG SHOT POSTER Jair Jurrjens
41 BEHIND THE NUMBERS By Steve Fall
54-55 HEROES & HISTORY
Rookie Sensation Craig McMurtry Now a College Coaching Success Story
By Brian Knapp
56 ALUMNI NOTES
58-59 BEYOND BASEBALL By Patty Rasmussen
60-61 TALKIN' CHOP
62 XTRA INNINGS
"Blister-itis" Can Be A Real Pain To Pitchers
By Patty Rasmussen


## PITCHERS


11 PAINTING THE CORNERS By Jay Busbee
15 FRANK WREN
17 BOBBY COX
22 BATTER UP! By Mike Gonzalez
26 AROUND BASEBALL
By Ken Rosenthal of FoxSports.com
57 GARY CARUSO
61 JOHNNY SAJEM'S Cartoon


## PINCH-HITTERS


48-49 TICKETS, TURNER FIELD INFO
50 2008 SCHEDULE CALENDAR/TV LISTINGS
51 INDIVIDUAL STATS
52-53 GAME BY GAME
53 ROSTER
55 HOW I MADE IT TO THE MAJORS
By Steve Fall
56 BIRTHDAYS


56

MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES

MISSISSIPPI BRAVES

## ON DECK


42 TOMMY HANSON'S MASTERPIECE
By Bill Ballew
43-47 FARM SYSTEM ROUNDUP By Bill Ballew
44 TOP 10 PROSPECTS
45 DOWN ON THE FARM By Jon Mark Owings
46-47 FARM SYSTEM STATS



VOLUME 4, NUMBER 8

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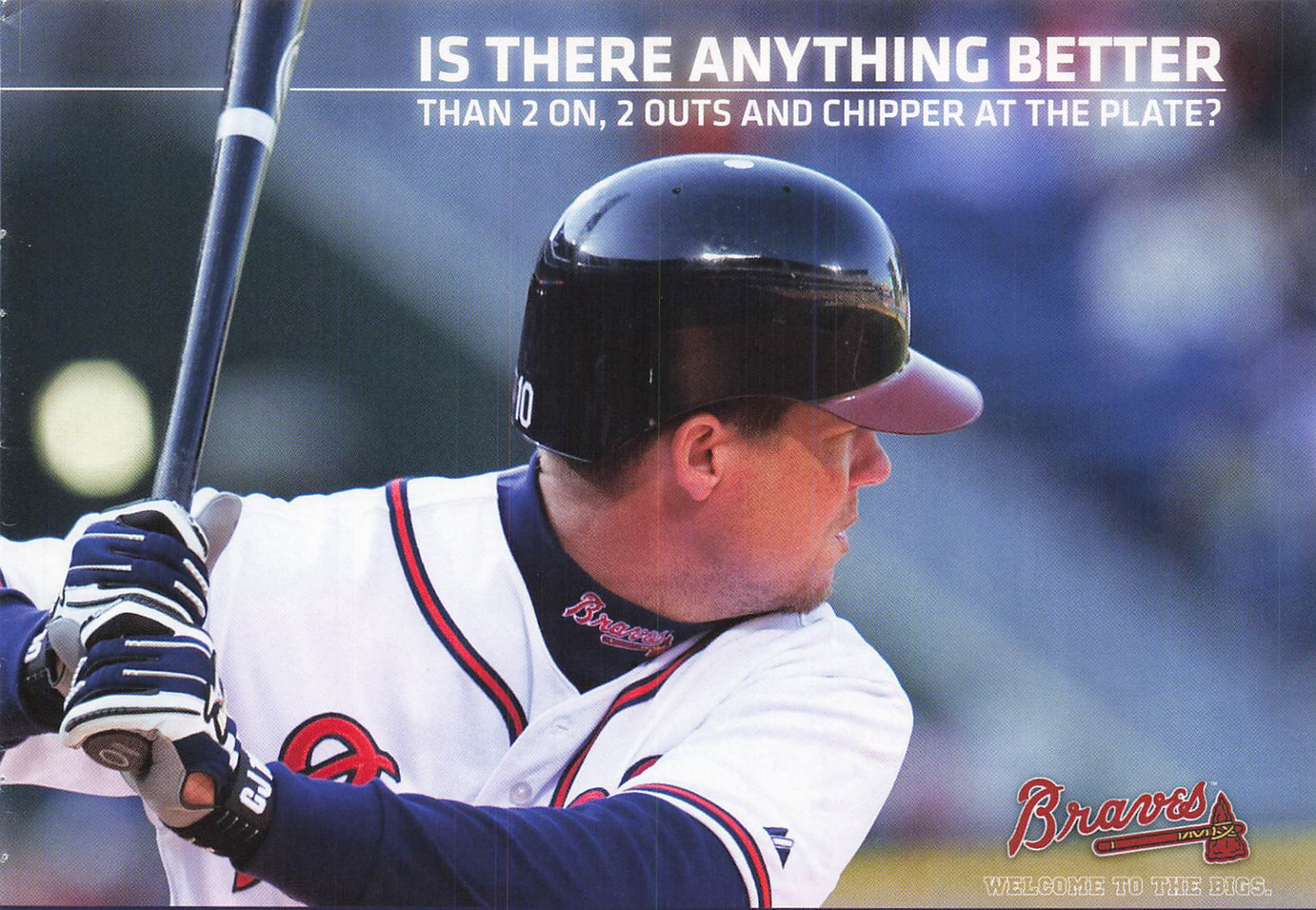


## AUGUST DEALS & PROMOTIONS

**AUGUST 1** — MILWAUKEE — FRIDAY 7:30 PM
**Publix Friday Night Fireworks**
7:30 PM — Spectacular post-game fireworks display

**AUGUST 2** — MILWAUKEE — SATURDAY 3:55 PM
**Braves Rally Flag Giveaway**
3:55 PM — Presented by NAPA to the first 45,000 fans

**AUGUST 3** — MILWAUKEE — SUNDAY 1:30 PM
**All-Star Sunday**
1:30 PM — Kids get to run the bases after the last out
**Alumni Meet and Greet**

**AUGUST 12** — CHICAGO — TUESDAY 7:00 PM
**Braves Keychain Giveaway**
7:00 PM — Presented by DHL to the first 45,000 fans

**AUGUST 13** — CHICAGO — WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM
**Chipper Jones T-shirt Giveaway**
7:00 PM — Presented by Delta to the first 10,000 fans

**AUGUST 14** — CHICAGO — THURSDAY 7:00 PM
**NASCAR Night**
7:00 PM

**AUGUST 15** — SAN FRANCISCO — FRIDAY 7:30 PM
**Publix Friday Night Fireworks**
7:30 PM — Spectacular post-game fireworks display

**AUGUST 16** — SAN FRANCISCO SATURDAY 7:00 PM
**College and Military Discounts**
7:00 PM — 2-for-1 tickets with student or service I.D.

**AUGUST 17** — SAN FRANCISCO — SUNDAY 1:30 PM
**All-Star Sunday**
1:30 PM — Kids get to run the bases after the last out
**Alumni Meet and Greet**

**AUGUST 18** — SAN FRANCISCO — MONDAY 4:30 PM
**MasterCard Grand Slam Value Plan**
4:30 PM — 4 tickets, 4 hot dogs, 4 Cokes, parking pass and program starting at $59

**AUGUST 26** — FLORIDA — TUESDAY 7:00 PM
**Braves Floppy Hat Giveaway**
7:00 PM — Presented by NAPA to the first 10,000 fans

**AUGUST 27** — FLORIDA — WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM
**Tim Hudson Bobblehead Giveaway**
7:00 PM — Presented by Coca Cola to the first 15,000 fans

**AUGUST 28** — FLORIDA — THURSDAY 7:00 PM
**Parrot Head Night**
7:00 PM — Come dressed in your favorite hawaiian shirt and enjoy Jimmy Buffet music throughout the ball park

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## TOM & CHRIS GLAVINE

The Glavines, who married 10 years ago, are both from working class/middle class families and have a strong appreciation for the lifestyle that Tom's baseball career enables them to enjoy.

Six years in the making, from property purchase to move in, the home has strong Gothic architecture and ecclesiastical influences.

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

Where did 10 years go? Or how about the last five? Those are the questions Chris Glavine asks when she reflects on her life as Tom Glavine's wife.

Quick calculations: Four years in Atlanta, followed by five years splitting time between Atlanta and New York when Tom made the jump to the Mets (2003-07), and now another year back in Atlanta.

"It's a blur," Chris said, curled up on a cozy sofa in the family room of their beautiful north Atlanta home.

Because of time they have to spend apart due to the demands of Tom's career, simple things, like going to church as a family, delight Chris.

"Sometimes when we all get to go to Mass together, I'll lean back and look down the pew and see my family," she said. "I'm completely at peace. I love my life. I don't take it for granted."

For the past five years, Tom left the family home each February and didn't return, for good, until the end of September or mid-October. The family - Chris, Tom's daughter Amber (13), Chris' son Jonathan (14), and their two sons, Peyton (9) and Mason (7), traveled to see him.

"During the school year, it was toughest," recalled Chris. "When the Mets were home, I'd pick up all the kids from school on Friday and fly to LaGuardia (airport near Shea Stadium) that evening. We'd go straight to Shea and get there during the game."

After the game, the family would drive to their home in Connecticut.

"If there was a day game the next day," Chris continued, "Tom would be up before the kids and head to the ballpark. We'd go to the game, drive back home, have dinner, and go to bed. Sunday was usually a day game. We'd say goodbye to Tom, go to the park, maybe. Often, we'd just fly out and back to Atlanta."

The two months of summer vacation were carefree by comparison. The family would go to New York for the length of a homestand, sometimes a week to 10 days. And Tom got to stay at his own home when the Mets played in Atlanta. Still, it was a grind.

Last season, Tom and Chris calculated how long he was away from home during his five seasons with the Mets. Including spring training and the post-season, they figured he lived away from home for three years.

The building materials and furnishings rely heavily on stone, wood and iron, as demonstrated by the exterior (inset) and the living room (R).

PHOTOS: ALLISON SHIRREFFS

Tom's favorite room is the kitchen and dining area, because it's a great place for friends and family to congregate. The formal dining room (below) includes cathedral chairs at opposite ends of the table and a stunning silver chandelier.

ALLISON SHIRREFFS

"That really brought things to light," said Tom. "I'm not saying it was putting (our marriage) in danger, but we started to feel the strain of the time apart. Couple that with the kids getting older. I was missing out on their stuff. They were sacrificing more things to be in New York."

Once Tom achieved his 300th major league win, last Aug. 5 at Wrigley Field, it became more difficult for him to rationalize his absence.

"It was a question of now, I'd accomplished that, what was I playing for?" he said. "Fortunately, it came to be that I was able to be at home and continue to play."

Both acknowledge they were immensely fortunate to have the financial means to keep the family close during Tom's five years with the Mets.

"Our life enables us to have a lot of things and to do a lot of things, but separation is the not-so-glamorous side people don't see," said Tom. "I don't care what you do and how much money you make, when you're away from your family, it's hard and it's a strain."

Now that Tom is back with the Braves, Chris says the difference in their lives is "day and night."

ALLISON SHIRREFFS

Because of their blended family, there can be anywhere from two to four of their children at the house at any time - and usually a lot more. But according to Tom, that's by design. "The idea was to have enough things at our home that our kids would want to stay around and have their buddies over," he said of the new home they moved into in March.

"I learned that from my sister," he said. "Every time I'd go over there, I'd see my niece and my nephew and 10 of their friends! I asked her, 'Don't you ever get tired of this?' She'd say, 'No, I know where they are.' I thought that was a good point. That's what we tried to create."

Boy did they succeed!

Not only do the Glavines have a stunning home with plenty of room for four active children and their friends, but they also used every inch of their outdoor property to its fullest advantage. The backyard features a full-sized pool, Jacuzzi and cabana, a sports court with a regulation basketball goal and, more importantly, roller hockey capabilities, and a gorgeous baseball field, complete with backstop.

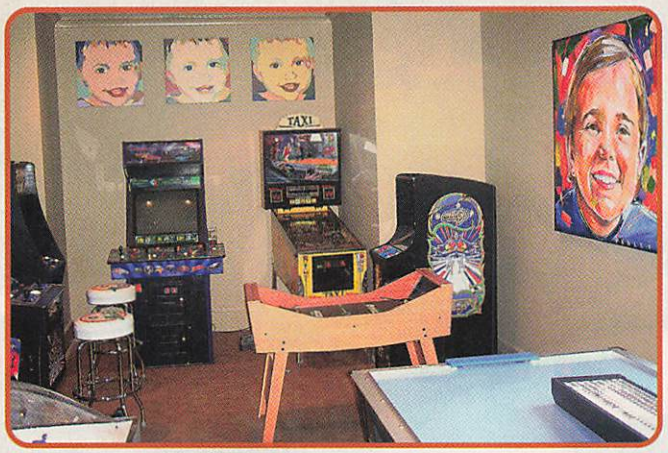
"Our kids spend all day either on the sports court, baseball field, or in the pool," said Chris. "They're in and out all day long."

For the ice hockey-loving Glavines, the sports court was a must have in order to practice year round. All the boys play recreational ice hockey, and Jonathon and Peyton will play on traveling teams this winter with Tom as coach. Tom doesn't roller blade, but does go out on the court to shoot on the boys.

And Glavine family Wiffle ball games are a favorite that everyone enjoys, including Amber and Chris.

"I've impressed my boys by taking them deep on the baseball field," bragged Chris, "and I'm awesome at kickball!"

There's as much to do inside the house as there is outside, maybe even more. The house was six years in the making, from the initial purchase of the property in 2002 until finally moving in this past March. They consulted several architects in order to achieve Chris' unique vision, a house with strong Gothic architecture and ecclesiastical influences that still felt "homey."



ALLISON SHRIEFFS

The building materials and furnishings rely heavily on stone, wood and iron. In some rooms, leaded-glass splayed (inset) windows draw in suffused light. From a decorating point of view, there's scarcely a room in the house without some sort of religious reference or artifact.

"My faith is so important to me, and my house reflects that," said Chris, who was greatly influenced in her Catholic faith by her French Canadian paternal grandmother. "Tom's parents are also very devout Catholics, and we know that our faith has helped us through very difficult times."

The Glavines are involved in their church and in the Catholic schools their children attend.

"A friend of mine once told me, 'If you fill your house with things you love, you'll always love your home,'" said Chris.

"My biggest concern was that it all come together and feel warm and comfortable," said Tom, who lobbied for the stone exterior and wide plank floors in the kitchen. "I think that happened. Chris did a great job."

The top floor of the house essentially belongs to the children. Amber and Jonathan each have their own bedroom and bathroom, and another bedroom and bathroom is shared by Peyton and Mason. Space over the garage, currently used for storage and "knee" hockey games, will eventually house more guest sleeping space, and there's still a dedicated guest room and bath on the upper floor.

A kids "lounge" area with large sofas is a favorite gathering place for the family to play the karaoke-style video game, "Rock Band." And everyone joins in!

The main floor of the house is breathtaking. The floor is made of church stone shipped from Europe. The walls are plaster, and the corners are rounded to give the house an Old World feel. Heavy wood accents the walls and ceilings, and large windows let in bright sunlight.

Tom's office is directly off the foyer.

A glass bowl, etched with the autographs of his Mets teammates, sits on his desk, a gift after achieving his 300th career win. But most of his memorabilia and awards are modestly tucked away inside large built-in bookcases with lattice doors.

Opening just one of the cabinets reveals two Cy Young Awards, three baseballs from his 300th win game marked "3-0-0," his 1995 Commemorative World Series Trophy, and the Luke Appling Nostalgia Award given to him by the Braves 400 Club.

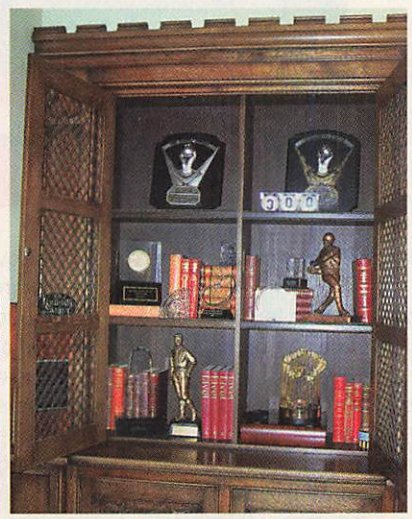
Four Silver Slugger Awards (1991, '95, '96, '98) lean casually against the walls, and six cases of Cabernet Glavignon, his charity wine, are stacked in one corner of the room. Tom autographed every bottle and is donating it to CURE Childhood Cancer for use in future charity auctions.

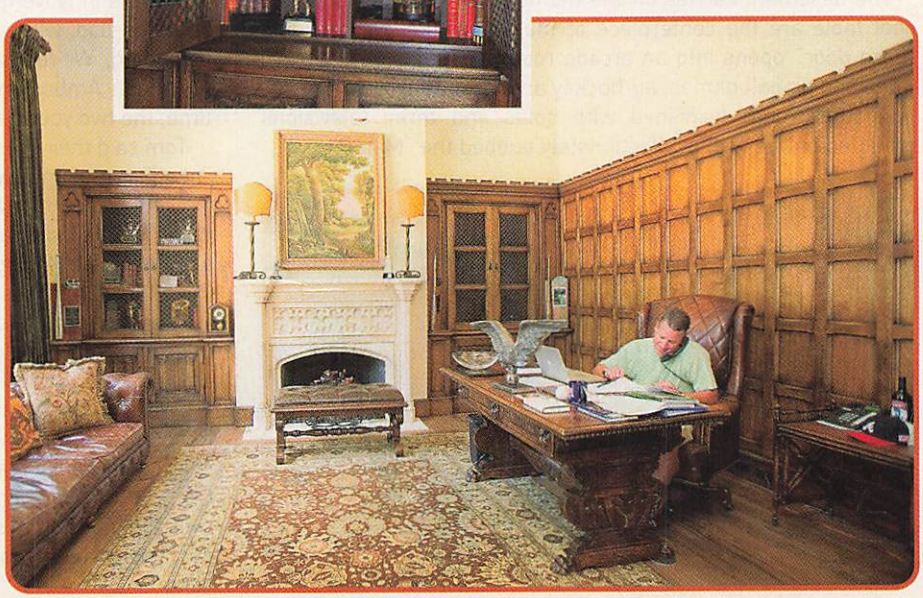
The formal dining room looks more like a room out of King Arthur than a modern home. Cathedral chairs sit at opposite ends of the sturdy dining table. A stunning silver chandelier hangs over the table, and the room is graced by a beautiful antique painting of Madonna and Child, an acquisition from a Vatican gallery.

The ornate living room is dominated by a four-sided antique reading stand from a monastery that Chris uses to display the children's portraits taken several years ago. To one side of the living room is the spacious master suite, while the other side of the hallway leads to the rest of the house.

The hall is decorated with church benches, antique artwork, and whimsical gargoyles punctuating the arched ceilings' exposed beams.

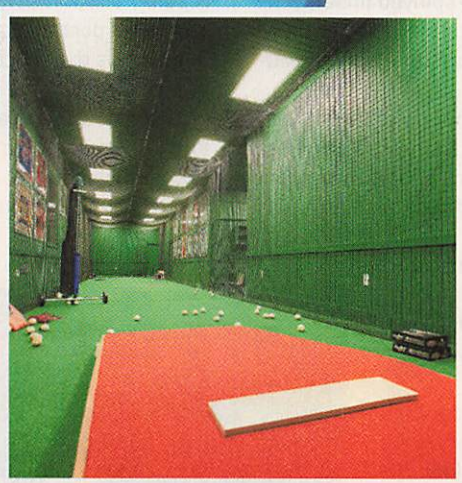
Chris began collecting furniture and accent pieces years before they moved to the new house. She knows her stuff and does her homework. The four chandeliers hanging in the hallway once hung in an old church in the Midwest. She found and purchased them on eBay. Four Gothic-styled chairs, formerly owned by the entertainer Cher, and now matched with a table in the family room, were purchased via an online Sotheby's auction.


PATTY RASMUSSEN


ALLISON SHRIEFFS

Tom works in his office, where two Cy Young Awards are among the array of honors tucked neatly into a cabinet (inset). The arcade room (above) features all sorts of game tables.

Recreational opportunities abound with the full-sized pool, sports court and baseball diamond, the "Fenway green" indoor batting cage (inset), and the basement (below) with pool table and "man pit."



PHOTOS: ALLISON SHIRREFFS

One of Tom's favorite rooms is the kitchen and family dining area that leads into the family room.

"I come from a kitchen family," he said. "We'd have 100 people over at the house during the holidays, and everyone would be in the kitchen! I'm the same way. I like that big open space where you can hang out, eat or watch TV."

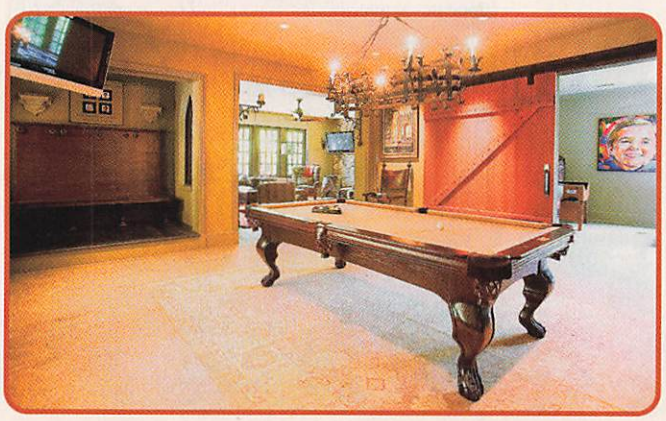
Chris' small office off the kitchen also houses the dog beds. They have two yellow Labs, Scoots (8) and Maggie (4).

Her desk is cluttered with the usual mom stuff, day planners, notes and bills.

The family room is a comfortable mixture of rich textures, patterns and colors. Huge windows reach toward the high ceiling where a large, circular iron chandelier is suspended.

The basement carries on the theme of family fun. A bar and pool table are the centerpiece of the space, but a red sliding "barn door" opens into an arcade room, complete with classic video and pinball games, air hockey and foosball tables.

Another room furnished with sofas and three televisions mounted on the wall is affectionately dubbed the "Man Pit."



ALLISON SHIRREFFS

"I haven't spent much time down there yet," said Tom, "but it's going to be perfect for fantasy football."

In back of the bar area is a wine cellar and the indoor batting cage. The batting cage room is painted "Fenway green," a tip of the cap from Tom and Chris, Boston Red Sox fans when they were growing up in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, respectively. Tom said he and the boys spend a lot of time in the batting cage, working on hitting and pitching.

A full gym, complete with a steam shower, and another bedroom and bathroom round out the bottom floor of the house.

As much as they enjoy their home, Tom and Chris have been focused on the people living inside since before they married.

"I think we've been able to build a family," said Tom, who married Chris in November 1998. "We didn't want to be step-mom and step-dad, with step-brothers and sisters. We said from the beginning, 'We're a family. These are your brothers and sisters.'"

Though Amber and Jonathan don't live at the house all the time, the two young teens are good buddies, Tom says.

Tom said their lifestyle is disconcerting at times, balancing the "need" versus the "want." "Neither one of us came from a family with a lot of 'stuff,'" he said. "We came from working class/middle class families. I walk into my home sometimes and say, 'What am I doing with a house like this? I don't need something this big.' That's my upbringing kicking in.

"I know it's not necessary to have a house like the one we have in order to have a close, fun family, because I grew up that way and didn't have that kind of home. But it's what I want to provide.

"We're trying to create an environment that our kids want to be in and their friends want to come over. Very rarely do you come over to our house that you don't find someone else there. I'll call Chris on the way home from the game and ask, 'Who's sleeping over tonight?'" That's great, because the kids enjoy it, and I do, too. I'm grateful that I've been able to create the icing on the cake."

# PAINTING THE CORNERS

BY JAY BUSBEE

## MY KINGDOM FOR A QUALITY TABLE SETTER

**THE MOST CRITICAL OUT** in a ballgame often isn't the final one, just as the final run scored often isn't the winning one. No, the critical out is the one that takes away a losing team's final *hope*, their last gasp before succumbing.

By that standard, then, the most critical out ever recorded by a Braves pitcher wasn't a milestone strikeout or the capper of a no-hitter. The most crucial out in Atlanta's history came in the top of the ninth of Game 6 of the 1995 World Series, when Mark Wohlers retired Cleveland leadoff man Kenny Lofton on a soft foul pop to start the inning (great catch, Rafael Belliard!).

Wait a second... Kenny Lofton? *He* was the most critical out in Braves history?

Hear (or, should I say, read) me out. Lofton was the prototypical leadoff hitter, the kind of player who wreaked havoc from the moment he stepped out of the dugout. He bedeviled the Braves on the basepaths that entire Series.

Wohlers had a god-awful pickoff move, which meant that if Lofton reached first, Wohlers might as well have given him third. And with a one-run lead, that's not something you want to do.

A quality leadoff hitter has to do a dozen things well, including getting on base, running and stealing with precision but no conscience, and tormenting opposing pitchers out of their skulls.

A first-rate leadoff man isn't all about the scoring, otherwise managers would lead off with their big bruisers, the way the American League did with Bo Jackson in the 1989 All-Star Game. (Of course, Bo homered to start the game, but that's not the point.) A leadoff man frustrates the pitcher into making mistake after mistake, and that's how big innings begin.

All too often in recent years, the Braves haven't had a Lofton type in their order. (Even when they had Lofton, in 1997, it didn't work so well.) While they've had several top-shelf leadoff men in the past, the Braves have all too often tossed whichever middle infielder or leftfielder happened to be swinging the hottest bat into the leadoff spot.

Of course, when you've got sticks like Chipper Jones and Mark Teixeira, and in years past, Andruw Jones or Andres Galarraga in your lineup, you don't need to worry about setting any kind of table. Those guys will clear it off faster than Bumpus' dogs in A Christmas Story.

PAULABELL/ATLANTA BRAVES

Through the All-Star break, Gregor Blanco filled the leadoff slot for Bobby Cox 22 times, third on the team behind Yunel Escobar (34) and Kelly Johnson (28).

Still, there are times when you need the kind of spark a leadoff hitter can provide. Atlanta has had some sterling leadoff hitters in years past - Rafael Furcal was one of the best in the game, and Deion Sanders (8-for-15, .533) might have had a chance at the 1992 World Series MVP had Atlanta beaten Toronto.

But how about the others? Is Atlanta's leadoff work that bad, or are we just spoiled by comparison with the sluggers?

In baseball, as you'd expect, there are stats specifically designed to measure leadoff performance. Walk Like a Sabermetrician, a stats-obsessed website, has compiled a range of leadoff stats the last three seasons.

In 2007, the Braves' leadoff crew of Kelly Johnson, Willie Harris and Yunel Escobar fared only slightly better, statistically speaking, than the major league average.

In the all-important category of On-Base Percentage - can't do nothin' if you can't get on base - Atlanta notched a .351 average, just above the .341 major league average but well below the big guys of the leadoff world like Ichiro and Jimmy Rollins. Atlanta's leadoff men scored 5.72 runs for every 25.5 outs they made, again placing them just above the major league median.

In 2006, when Marcus Giles and Pete Orr handled most of the leadoff duties, the Braves again ranked middle of the pack. The prior year, Furcal, in his final year on the team, ranked second in the majors in Runs Above Average - indicating he was far and away one of the best leadoff men in the game.

We could go farther with this, trotting out head-spinning stats like Run Element Ratio and Estimated Runs Scored, but you get the idea. Atlanta's recent leadoff history has been solid but unspectacular, not unlike their overall season-long performance. An extra man on base here, an extended rally there, and who knows how the standings would have shaken out?

This year, Bobby Cox has used Johnson, Escobar and Gregor Blanco at leadoff, with Blanco holding down the job at this writing. It probably won't surprise you to know that the Braves' leadoff men aren't exactly terrifying the league, with an on-base percentage of .351 (as of early July) and an OPS (on-base plus slugging percentage) that's just below the statistical average.

But enough with the statistics. Kenny Lofton only hit .200 during that '95 Series, and yet there wasn't a Braves fan alive that wanted to see him at the plate. Sometimes, it's not what you do, but what you *could* do, that counts.

When the Braves' leadoff hitter - whoever he may be - starts creating that kind of fear in opposing teams, it's going to ripple right down the lineup.

# L.A.-L.A. LAND

**Ballplayers** who barnstorm across America experience a lot of unusual things, and Greg Norton added one to his book when the Braves visited Los Angeles in early July to play the Dodgers.

"The second night there, the television in my room came on by itself around 3 a.m.," said Norton. "The remote was in the bed, so I figured I just rolled over on it.

"But the next night, when I turned off the TV, I tossed the remote on the floor so it wouldn't happen again. Around 4 a.m., it happened again...

"Now I'm a skeptic, and at checkout, I didn't say anything to the woman at the desk except, 'You might want to have someone check the TV in room 511, because it came on by itself two nights in a row.'

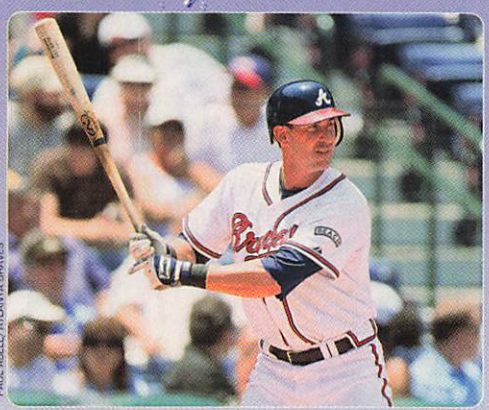
"I didn't say anything about 'haunted' or 'ghosts,' but her response was, 'We've had quite a bit of activity in that room.'

"I know it could be anything, but even as a skeptic, it makes you wonder."

The Braves stay at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. It was originally built in 1907 and was used as a U.S. Army hospital during World War II.

Bobby Cox's reaction to Norton's story?

"That makes three (haunted) now - the Pfister in Milwaukee and the Vinoy in Tampa (St. Petersburg)... all the old ones!"



PAUL ABELL/ATLANTA BRAVES

# WHAT A CAKE... KNIFE!

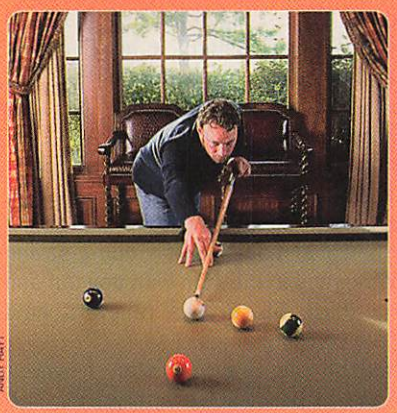
HANK AARON had a unique Fourth of July experience, spending the weekend in The Bahamas with his wife, Billye, as guests of U.S. Ambassador Ned L. Siegel and his wife, Stephanie Siegel.

Aaron was the guest of honor at the U.S. Embassy's 4th of July celebration, titled "The Fourth of July Star Spangled Splash Promoting the Best of America in The Bahamas." He also addressed a large group of Bahamian youth and aspiring baseball players on July 5 in Nassau.

On the Fourth, Aaron (second from right) took part in the official cake cutting ceremony with (L-R): Governor General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Arthur D. Hanna; U.S. Ambassador Siegel and his wife Stephanie; Naval Liaison Officer, Lieutenant Commander Delong Bonner; and Billye Aaron.

The cake, donated by the Atlantis Resort, served over 3,000.

# SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY



ANDY HAYT

**ATLANTA** and the entire South is known for its hospitality, but the Braves discovered July 10 on their off day in San Diego that Southern hospitality also exists in Southern California. Mark Kotsay, who lives outside San Diego in Rancho Santa Fe, hosted an evening party at his home and even had a bus transport players and their wives from the hotel in downtown San Diego. That afternoon, he also entertained several members of the Braves staff at the private golf course in the community where he and his wife, Jamie, and their three children live at The Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe.

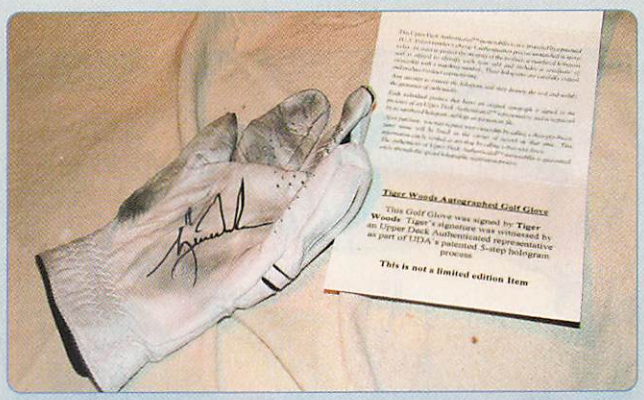
"There were probably 20 or more players and some of the wives and all of the staff," said Kotsay (above at his pool table). It was a lot of fun. We had dinner and played pool and ping pong and just relaxed. It was very casual."

Perhaps no one appreciated the relaxation more than Jeff Francoeur, who'd been back and forth between Mississippi that week. He was among those who played golf at The Bridges, then he took a dip in Kotsay's pool to cool off.

"I did a cannonball," Francoeur said with a grin. "The golf course was unbelievable, and we all had a great time at the Kotsays' home. It was good to see everyone be able to just relax and tell stories and have a good time. Charlie Morton played the guitar. And the food was awesome - the best shrimp I've ever had, coconut shrimp!"

HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

# STOCK THE AUCTIONS


Tiger Woods Autographed Golf Glove
This Golf Glove was signed by Tiger Woods. Tiger's signature was witnessed by an Upper Deck Authenticated representative as part of UDA's patented 5-step hologram process.
This is not a limited edition item

**WHERE ELSE** can people find autographed collectibles from baseball's all-time saves leader, an Academy Award-winning actress, and today's greatest golfer... all in the same place?

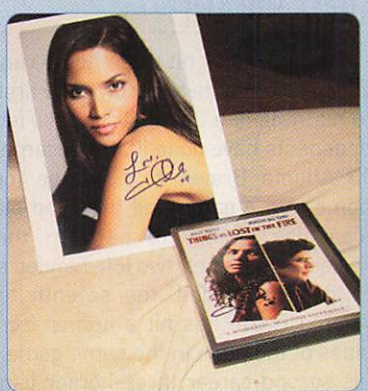
When the Mark Teixeira Charitable Foundation hosted the 2008 Prevent Child Abuse Georgia Celebrity Golf Classic on June 30, the participating golfers found silent and live auctions filled with those and many more unique items.

The auction featured a baseball signed by Padres reliever Trevor Hoffman. There was a bat from former Braves outfielder J.D. Drew, a cap from Cy Young winner Jake Peavy, and a golf glove from Tiger Woods (above). Halle Berry (below) donated an autographed photo and DVD from her movie "Things We Lost in the Fire." There also was a painting created by actor Pierce Brosnan.

How could so many unique items be assembled?

"It's a great example of collaboration," said Hilary Abbott, who chairs the event. "I always try to think of things that people can't get (elsewhere), or things like VIP tickets to shows are really hard to get, or great vacation destinations. Things that strategically would be a good fit that they would buy."

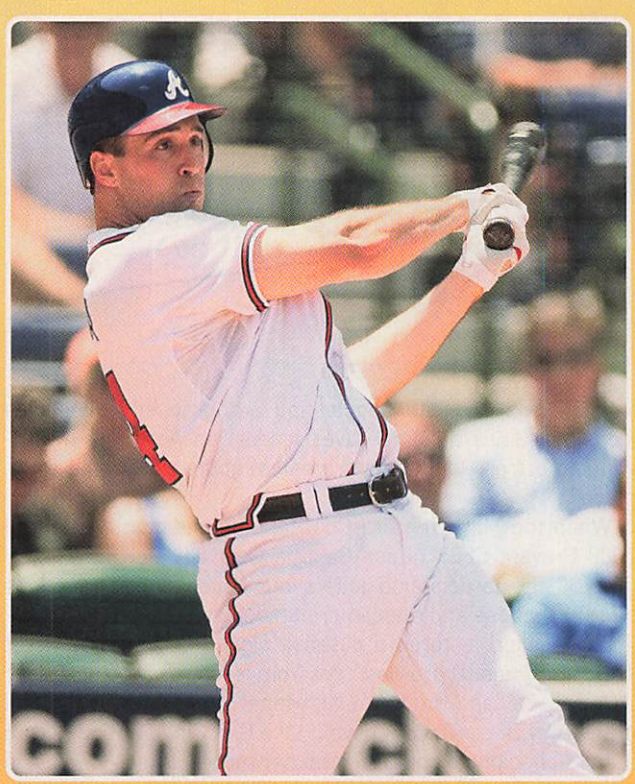
Abbott, who runs her own public relations firm Abbott Communications in Alpharetta, Ga., has built an extensive list of celebrity contacts. Since she handles marketing for luxury juvenile product companies, she deals with celebrities and entertainers searching for items like organic mattresses. Abbott also works with some sports teams when their players are expecting babies, and knows how to reach players through their publicist or agent. In many cases, the donations come simply by asking.




"You draw upon your network of everyone that you come into contact with on a daily basis," said Abbott, who explained how Teixeira's name and reputation make the event special. "Mark has a great background and a great name. He has a fabulous reputation, and he's a very giving person. When you put together a great cause like Prevent Child Abuse Georgia and you have a name like Mark's leading the event, it only helps things."

This year's auctions raised over $17,000.

– STEVE FALL



PAUL ABELL/ATLANTA BRAVES

# LONG BALL

THE BRAVES played the longest regular season game in Turner Field history July 6, beating Houston, 7-6, in 17 innings. With the bases loaded and no outs in the bottom of the 17th, **Mark Teixeira** drove a ball off the base of the left-field wall to end the game. He was credited with a single.

The Braves rallied from a 5-1 deficit after Houston's **Ty Wigginton** hit a grand slam in the third off **Charlie Morton**. **Yunel Escobar**, who was 4-for-9, doubled in two runs to tie the game, 6-6, in the eighth and also made a diving, game-saving catch of a line drive by Wigginton in the 15th with one out and runners at second and third. Six Braves relievers held Houston scoreless over the last 11 innings.

The game took its toll on the Braves' roster, however, because three players had to be disabled afterwards. **Jeff Bennett** dislocated his shoulder, **Manny Acosta** strained his right hamstring trying to beat out a bunt, and **Omar Infante** re-aggravated a groin strain when he was running out a double.

The game last 5 hours and 35 minutes and didn't even start until after a rain delay of 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Mark Teixeira ended the longest regular season game in Turner Field history (opened in 1997) with a long "single" off the base of the wall in the 17th inning.

## SEEKING A SOLUTION

After two and a half seasons as one of the Braves' more-productive hitters, **Jeff Francoeur** went into a deep and prolonged slump in May and was still trying to work his way out of it at the All-Star break. He visited an eye doctor in late June and was sent to Double-A Mississippi for a brief refresher in early July as he and the Braves tried to find an answer for his batting average dipping into the low .230s.

On April 27, Francoeur was hitting .294, but on July 3, when he was sent to Richmond, his average was just .234. He hit .236 in May (3 HR/14 RBIs), .206 in June (2 HR/8 RBIs), and was hitting .182 for July (1 HR/3 RBIs) when the All-Star break arrived.

The eye exam produced a suggestion that Francoeur wear a contact lens in just his right eye and only for night games. His stats are drastically better in day games.

Finally, the Braves gave the 24-year-old Francoeur the option to report to Triple-A Richmond or Mississippi July 4, and he chose the latter due to his relationship with manager **Phillip Wellman**. It was expected that he would stay there at least 10 days, as required by major league rules, but when he hit well and the Braves sustained injuries that allowed him to return in less than 10 days, he was recalled July 7, though he didn't join the club until July 8 in Los Angeles. He was 7-for-13 at Mississippi and got four hits in his last game before being recalled.

## THREE FOR TEX

**Mark Teixeira** hit three home runs June 22 against Seattle to become the first Brave to hit three in a game at Turner Field (four opponents have done it). He became one of 13 Atlanta Braves to hit three (or four) homers in a game and the 22nd player in franchise history to perform the feat. Teixeira hit the first two left-handed and the third right-handed, the seventh time an Atlanta Brave has hit a homer from both sides of the plate in the same game. It was his second career three-homer game and the fourth time he's homered from both sides of the plate in the same game.

### 4 HOMERS IN A GAME

| | |
|---|---|
| Bobby Lowe | May 30, 1894 |
| Joe Adcock | July 31, 1954 |
| Bob Horner | July 6, 1986 |

### 3 HOMERS IN A GAME

| | |
|---|---|
| Les Bell | June 2, 1928 |
| Hal Lee | July 6, 1934 |
| Babe Ruth | May 25, 1935 |
| Jim Tobin | May 13, 1942 |
| Eddie Mathews | Sept. 27, 1952 |
| Jim Pendleton | Aug. 30, 1953 |
| Hank Aaron | June 21, 1959 |
| Gene Oliver | July 30, 1966 |
| Bob Tillman | July 30, 1969 |
| Rico Carty | May 31, 1970 |
| Mike Lum | July 3, 1970 |
| Orlando Cepeda | July 26, 1970 |
| Dale Murphy | May 18, 1979 |
| Ken Griffey | July 22, 1986 |
| Jeff Treadway | May 26, 1990 |
| Jeff Blauser | July 12, 1992 |
| Andruw Jones | Sept. 25, 2002 |
| Chipper Jones | Aug. 14, 2006 |
| Mark Teixeira | June 22, 2008 |

## JAIR'S GEM

**Jair Jurrjens** faced just two batters over the minimum in a sterling eight-inning outing June 27 at Toronto. He limited the Blue Jays to three hits and issued one walk in pitching the Braves to a 4-0 victory. In the first seven innings, Toronto hit only three balls to the outfield - two flyouts and a single. He retired the first 13 batters he faced. **Mike Gonzalez** pitched a perfect ninth inning to complete the three-hitter.

## ON THE MOVE

**Mike Gonzalez**, out since last May 16 recovering from elbow surgery, returned to the active roster June 18. **Phil Stockman** was optioned to Richmond to make room on the roster for Gonzalez. **Brent Lillibridge** was recalled from Richmond June 21, and **Jeff Ridgway** was optioned to the Triple-A club.

On July 1, **Mark Kotsay**, who'd been out with a bad back, was activated, and **Brandon Jones** was optioned to Richmond. **Martin Prado** was activated from the disabled list July 3, and Lillibridge was optioned to Richmond. When **Jeff Francoeur** was sent to Mississippi July 4, outfielder **Jason Perry** was called up from Richmond.

**Jeff Bennett**, **Omar Infante** and **Manny Acosta** were all disabled July 6, and Francoeur and Lillibridge were recalled to fill two of those slots. The Braves also purchased right-handed reliever **Vladimir Nunez** from Richmond, and **John Smoltz** was transferred to the 60-day disabled list. On July 8, veteran right-handed reliever **Julian Tavarez** was signed to bolster the bullpen, and Perry was optioned back to Richmond.

## SHORT HOPS

- **Mike Hampton**, who appeared close to rejoining the Braves, had to leave a rehab start for Double-A Mississippi July 16 due to a strained left groin.
- **Chipper Jones** missed eight straight starts in late June due to a strained right quad muscle (thigh).
- **Yunel Escobar** has an inflamed left rotator cuff and was listed as day-to-day at the All-Star break. He injured the shoulder June 24, missed five games and returned for seven games after receiving a cortisone shot. But he re-injured it July 9 and missed the San Diego series.

# NOW'S THE TIME WE NEED TO SHOW WHAT WE CAN DO

**MOST GENERAL MANAGERS** recharge their batteries during the All-Star break. There's not a lot of activity, because most of the guys are taking some time off to be with their families.

I made contact with every GM during the last week or so to get an idea of what they're contemplating for after the break, who might be available, and who's looking for particular things to strengthen their clubs.

After the break, with that information in hand, I'll continue to watch our team and see if we can start to play consistent baseball and win some games before making any decisions on what we might or might not do.

Our family went to the British Virgin Islands during the break to do some scuba diving. We've done that the last couple of years. I make all my calls when I get up in the morning, and when we return from diving, I check my messages and return calls in the evening. But it's pretty quiet for three or four days.

For the last month or so, we've been playing .500 ball or just below, and in the end, that's just not good enough.

One reason for some optimism is we're looking to get back some key guys from injuries - hopefully Mike Hampton, Rafael Soriano, Tom Glavine and Matt Diaz. Getting back players of that quality can make a difference. Not to mention the three guys - Jeff Bennett, Omar Infante and Manny Acosta - we lost in one day (July 6).

We don't know about Yunel Escobar's shoulder yet. Hopefully, it's something he can get through the year with. But we don't want to jump to any conclusion about him, one way or the other.

> "WE'VE FELT ALL YEAR THAT WE'RE JUST ONE STREAK AWAY FROM JUMPING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RACE AND BEING A CONTENDER."

We sent Jeff Francoeur down to Mississippi for a few days because we felt he was pressing so hard that he just needed to get away from it all and relax.

Jeff went down and relaxed and had some success right away and regained that confident look. That's why we brought him back so quickly. He looked like a different player when he got back, and based on his early results, I'd say it was the right decision.

Deciding to bring him back so soon took more judgment that the decision to send him down. My head said "no," it was too soon, but my instincts said "yes," based on the advice of all of the staff.

Getting back Mike Gonzalez has given the team a big lift. He looked good in the spring, but he was only 60 to 70 percent then. We could tell he was healthy and making progress, and we knew he would be a shot in the arm when he was ready - we just didn't know it would be when we were without Soriano.

When a team has a win in hand and feels confident that it won't get away, it's a big boost. We've been on both sides of that equation the last few years when we knew we were going to win - and other times when we weren't so sure. It's great to have a guy like Mike who is capable and confident in those situations.

Having Mike back helps us get past the loss of Peter Moylan. Will Ohman has been terrific, and we've gotten good work out of Blaine Boyer and Manny Acosta. With Gonzalez and hopefully Soriano soon, it would give us a lot of depth heading into the end of the game.

We've felt all year that we're just one streak away from jumping in the middle of the race and being a contender - winning eight out of 10, or 12 out of 15, the kind of streak the Mets have put together. That's what we have to do. Otherwise, we'll sit five to seven games back, like we are now.

When we have a healthy lineup, top to bottom, I feel we're fully capable of doing that. We've been talking about it since spring training - but we have to produce on the field.

# PLAY BALL!

ATLANTA BRAVES

Ruben Gotay (center) earned a lot of new fans when he helped open the Junior Braves RBI season.

**RUBEN GOTAY** helped celebrate opening day of the Junior Braves RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) season on June 25 at the Atlanta Braves Baseball Academy at the Villages of Carver YMCA. Gotay spoke to 300 young athletes representing 24 Metro Atlanta Boys & Girls Clubs about the four points of Junior Braves Baseball - confidence, integrity, teamwork and leadership. He also participated in a home run derby with several of the players in the program and threw out the first pitch of the boys 10-12-year-old game on **John Smoltz** Field.

Now in its fourth season, the Junior Braves RBI Youth Baseball League sponsored by Delta Air Lines offers more than 2,000 youngsters, ages 5-18, the opportunity to play baseball. Teams are formed in underserved neighborhoods where recreation programs are most needed. The program is designed to increase minority youth participation and interest in baseball, encourage academic participation and achievement, develop self-esteem and teach the value of teamwork.

## THE MAYOR'S PITCH

Atlanta mayor **Shirley Franklin** spoke at the Atlanta Braves Baseball Academy on June 26. The Braves and Publix Super Markets hosted 175 girls, ages 9-12, from the Metro Atlanta YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, TryCope, Tennis in the 'Hood, Girls, Inc., Agape Community Center, and the Ben Hill Community Center for the third annual "She Can Play" leadership and physical fitness clinic. She spoke about the importance of education, physical fitness and character. Afterwards, the girls participated in a softball clinic.

The previous day, the girls attended a leadership workshop at Turner Field, enjoyed a pre-game lunch and then watched the Braves play the Brewers.

## HO! HO! HO!

The Atlanta Braves wives hosted their annual "Christmas in July" toy drive July 1-3. Fans who donated a new, unwrapped toy with a minimum $10 value received a Braves autographed item and a two-for-one ticket coupon. All toys were delivered by Braves players and their wives to patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta hospitals as part of the Braves Christmas in July visits later in the month.

The annual toy drive cumulated July 3 with "snowfall" in Turner Field's Fan Plaza that was turned into a winter wonderland, complete with a giant Christmas tree. Santa and his elves parachuted into the ballpark to deliver the first ball.

## BIRTHDAY BASH

The Braves wore special "Stars & Stripes" caps for games over the Fourth of July weekend. They'll also wear them on Sept. 11. This style of cap is being sold to fans, with a portion of the proceeds going to Welcome Back Veterans.

Independence Day celebrations at Turner Field honored members of the U.S. military and their families, and fans enjoyed a post-game "Salute to America Fireworks Spectacular."

The Braves' holiday-weekend festivities included a free concert by two-time Grammy Award-winning group Arrested Development in Fan Plaza on July 5. Arrested Development's lead female vocalist, **Tasha LaRae**, performed the national anthem on July 4. Additionally, Operation Homefront Georgia brought together volunteers from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and National Guard to carry the largest American flag ever displayed at Turner Field during pre-game ceremonies.

Serving as the Braves' Honorary Team Captain on July 4 was Captain **Joseph Anthony**, of Richmond, Va., a 16-year veteran of the U.S. Army and a decorated soldier who served in Iraq.

## FORMER FARMHAND

University of Florida football coach **Urban Meyer** attended the June 25 game

against Milwaukee, visited the Braves clubhouse before the game, and also talked with old pal **Mark Lemke**, the former Braves second baseman and current member of the radio broadcast team. Meyer played briefly in the Braves farm system before deciding to focus on football, and Lemke was his roommate.

## SOLD!

Atlanta Braves Foundation Weekend generated nearly $80,000 for the Foundation and its grants program, July 4-6, at Turner Field. Braves memorabilia, including game-worn jerseys, autographed baseballs, photos, lineup cards, and other unique and valuable items were sold and auctioned off all weekend.

Top silent auction items included a **Brian McCann** autographed catcher's mask and batting glove that went for $1,500, a **Chipper Jones** autographed game-worn jersey for $1,000, and a framed collection of baseballs signed by each member of the 2008 Atlanta Braves team that sold for $1,275.

## CONCERT DATE

**Steven Curtis Chapman**, a Christian artist with 44 number-one hits and more than 10 million albums sold will perform at Turner Field Aug. 2 after the Braves game against Milwaukee. He has won five Grammy Awards and this past spring was recognized with a star on Nashville's Walk of Fame. Fans must have a Braves game ticket and a concert ticket in order to attend the post-game concert. Packages including both the game and concert tickets are available for $15 for Upper Box seats and $25 for Lower Outfield seats. Fans who already have Braves tickets on the scheduled concert dates can purchase concert tickets separately for $10 at the ticket office at Turner Field.

## UPCOMING

Hemophilia of Georgia will host the 26th Annual Hit 'Em for Hemophilia Golf Tournament on Oct. 28 at Château Élan Winery and Resort in Braselton, Ga. More than 400 corporate executives, local and sports celebrities, and invited guests are expected to participate in the event which also features an awards banquet, live auction and raffle. AT&T Mobility is the platinum sponsor. Visit hog.org for more information or call (770) 518-8272.

BOBBY COX

MANAGER

# WE STILL THINK WE CAN GET BACK IN THIS RACE

**THE RETURN** of Mike Gonzalez has been a real bright spot for us during the past month. He's been perfect. He's probably only about 90 percent back to where he was before elbow surgery, but he's done a great job. He pitches on adrenaline. He really wants the ball in save situations, and he's our closer now, for sure.

Rafael Soriano looks like he's on his way back. He threw a rehab assignment today, only nine pitches, but he didn't have any pain. He's only pitched in nine games this year, so we'll have to wait and see. Gonzalez is our man in the ninth, though.

Tom Glavine has been doing some throwing and isn't feeling any pain. He hasn't thrown hard yet, so we'll have to wait and see on him, too. So far, so good, though. And Mike Hampton looks like he's getting close to being ready, too.

Matt Diaz is working his way back, but his knee is still bothering him a little, so we don't know for sure when he'll be ready.

Yunel Escobar's shoulder is a concern. There's something in there that's bothering him. We'll give him four days off in San Diego and four days off at the All-Star break, then see how he feels. But it's definitely a concern.

It's been a frustrating season so far, but there's a long way to go. We've pitched well enough to win more games than we have. We've hit for a good average, but we just haven't been able to get the big hits when we needed them.

Jeff Francoeur has been in a slump, but he's back hitting the ball hard now and looks like he's going to be okay. You really hate to see that happen to someone like him who's played the way he has for us.

He was getting so much advice and so many suggestions thrown at him that I'm sure it just got to be too much. It's tough to hit like that when all those things are going through your mind at the plate. We sent him down to Mississippi, just for four days, and I think it allowed him to clear his head, that's all. He's fine.

> "WE JUST NEED TO KEEP PITCHING LIKE WE HAVE BEEN AND START GETTING SOME BIG HITS WHEN WE NEED THEM."

I was really disappointed that Tim Hudson and Jair Jurrjens didn't make the All-Star team. They both pitched plenty well enough in the first half and deserved to be there. But there are so many pitchers and only so many spots. Still, I think they should have been there.

We're happy for Chipper Jones and Brian McCann to make the team, of course. Chipper's been the top hitter in baseball during the first half, and Mac must be leading the catchers in home runs and doubles, and he's hitting right at .300. We're proud of them. They're certainly very deserving of that honor.

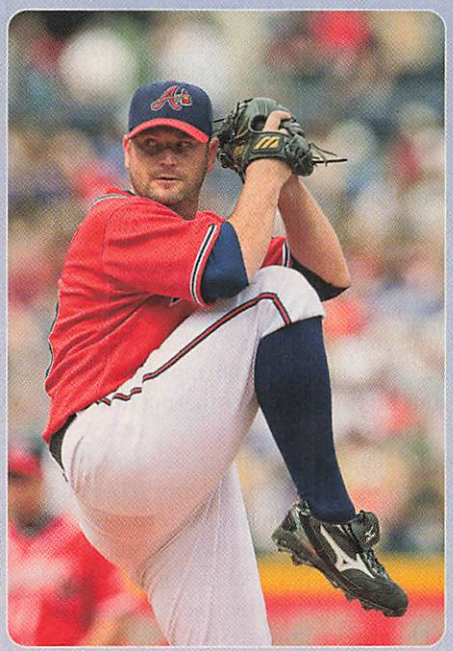
We still think we can make a move after the All-Star break. As far as trades go, Frank Wren is looking for players and talking to other teams every day. Getting swept at home in that last series with Philadelphia really hurt. We had to win two of those games and we'd have been right there. But we got swept.

Still, in spite of everything, we're not out of it. We're getting some guys back from injury, and we just need to keep pitching like we have been and start getting some big hits when we need them.

Tex (Mark Teixeira) shows signs of getting it going. He had one of our biggest hits of the year when he drove in the winning run in the 17th inning against Houston (7-6 win July 6 at Turner Field).

He was so determined to knock that run in. You could see that when he swung and missed at a pitch right before he got the hit. It wasn't even close to the strike zone, and you never see him swing at something like that. But he just had it in his mind that he was going to get that run across and end the game right there. And he did it. He had a big second half last year, and we hope he can do the same thing this year.

# PLAYING PEPPER WILL OHMAN



ATLANTA BRAVES: PAUL ABELL

The Braves acquired Ohman and Omar Infante from the Cubs in exchange for reliever Jose Ascanio in December.

INTERVIEW BY
PATTY RASMUSSEN

**CHOPTALK:** You wear number 13. Is that by choice?

**WILL OHMAN:** I didn't choose 13. The first time I ever wore it, I was in Double A, the youngest guy on the team. This was in Jackson, Tennessee (2000). I was the last to choose a number. I think you can only carry 23 or 24 guys on the roster, and the guy right before me chose my favorite number - 12. I was distraught and needed counseling, but after several weeks of hardcore introspection, I decided: I was born on the 13th, I was a big fan of Billy Wagner, so I picked 13 and probably had my best year ever in the minors. I ended up getting called up to the majors that year.

**CT:** So, it was lucky, or at least it's not unlucky 13?

**OHMAN:** Some fans in Chicago would disagree with that statement!

**CT:** What's the wackiest thing you've ever done or been part of in baseball?

**OHMAN:** I've been known to play a prank here and there. I fell victim to one of the worst - or best - pranks ever caught on video for This Week in Baseball. In 2005, I had just come back from (elbow) surgery, two years out of the game. I played in Triple-A in 2004. I'm kind of a loud guy, kind of boisterous...

**CT:** Really? I would never have guessed.

**OHMAN:** Some people would even throw "gregarious" and "loquacious" out there! Anyway, I came back with the Cubs and showed up to spring training camp and somebody had frozen my turf (running) shoes in a block of ice. It was a good joke. I've always said if you play a prank, just don't damage someone else's property so they don't have to pay for it with their own money. If it's replaceable at somebody else's expense, like a shoe company, it's fair game. I thought it was funny, so I thawed out my shoes and kept asking around, trying to find out who pulled the prank. I got an idea of who it was. I thought it was Ryan Dempster. He was making a start and that day I specifically super-glued the zipper of his game pants open. I eye-blacked his hat and stayed late the day before and re-laced every pair of shoes in his locker so that they tied down near the toes. It's not that funny, but it's tedious to fix. I figured that was a calm way of saying, "Ah, ha-ha-ha." I had the clubbies bring extra of everything he would need to make his start and figured it was all over and done. About five days later, we're standing on the field during the National Anthem. I'm next to Mike Remlinger, and there's a camera crew that's filming us. I'm a pretty gullible guy, or at least assume that things are as they seem, so I asked him why. He told me they were just following him around for a behind-the-scenes story. When I got down to the bullpen, I sat down and someone said to me from the other bullpen, "Hey, is this your wheel?" No joke. There was one of the wheels from my car sitting in the bullpen. Immediately my heart sinks. I know what's happened. I was scheduled to pitch the fourth inning. He hid a tire in the bullpen, the dugout, the coach's locker room, and one in the shower. For the next 45 minutes, I went around the yard looking for and collecting my tires. He had driven my car onto the stadium concourse, put the car up on blocks, and taken all the wheels off. Dempster was the culprit, but Remlinger was the accomplice, setting me up for the video. Fortunately for me, it was captured on video forever. It was one of my proudest moments. For two years, we'd go into stadiums and that video would be playing.

**CT:** You attended Pepperdine University in California. What did you study?

**OHMAN:** I studied business administration. That was my minor. My major was skipping class in favor of playing pool and ping pong at the student union and trying to convince my now wife that I wasn't a creep.

**CT:** Did you meet Alyson in college? Did you know she was "the one" right away?

**OHMAN:** I met her the first day at college. I knew right away, but she was not as easily convinced of the fact that I was the man she wanted to spend her life with.

> "I... SHOWED UP TO SPRING TRAINING CAMP AND SOMEBODY HAD FROZEN MY TURF (RUNNING) SHOES IN A BLOCK OF ICE."

**CT:** Did you graduate?

**OHMAN:** I did not, but I'm going to. I've taken classes online. I've transferred all my credits to Arizona State. At the rate I'm going, it will take me another three years, mainly because of all the travel we do. Things hit a standstill when our children (twin son and daughter) were born.

**CT:** Do you lord your superior intellect over your bullpen mates?

**OHMAN:** (Laughs) Absolutely. If you can't finish the New York Times crossword puzzle, you're not worth speaking to! Seriously, I was on the phone with a friend of mine who said I hadn't changed since he met me five years ago, and I said, "I am the same jerk I've always been!" No one can say that fame, or the lack thereof, in middle relief has changed me!

**CT:** If you were on a reality show, which one would it be, and why?

**OHMAN:** Without a doubt, I'd be on The Amazing Race.

**CT:** Who would be your partner?

**OHMAN:** My wife has wanted to do it for years, but I've said I just don't know if we need that type of scrutiny on our relationship, especially under stressful situations! My competitive mean streak is not the prettier side of my life, but I'd love to do it. I love competition, and I love travel. I like to figure out puzzles. Plus, on The Amazing Race, you get to take showers, which you don't get to do on Survivor.

**CT:** We know you can read, but do you read?

**OHMAN:** I don't read as much as I'd like, but my wife is always intent on handing me books. I've got a stack of about 15 books I'm supposed to read. I always liked the Tom Clancy books. I like combat, tactical-style books. The books I complete are generally fiction. The ones I don't, I've usually skimmed and decided I don't want to read. I complete innings, not books!

**CT:** Speaking of pitching, you mentioned once that Mike Remlinger had a big influence on you. What did you get from Remlinger? How did he influence you?

**OHMAN:** I played with Mike in 2005. He was the elder statesman of the bullpen at that particular time. As a lefty, I would bounce questions off him about situations and when I could expect to go in the game and how to prepare myself mentally. In the bullpen, you're in an odd scenario because you have to play manager in your head. You have to play about three or four batters ahead in your head. If this guy gets one, they may pinch-hit, and that would call for me to get up. That's what Remlinger really helped me with, the flow of the game. It's like chess. They anticipate five or six moves ahead.

**CT:** You're on a team with John Smoltz and Tom Glavine, and you played with Greg Maddux. Is that cool for you to think that you've played for these guys who will certainly be in the Hall of Fame?

**OHMAN:** (Laughs) That's assuming my plaque isn't right next to them! Middle relievers are sweeping the nation in popularity! I've re-defined that position! Seriously, though, it is cool. I've gotten to play with some very big guys. In addition to those three guys, one of the first catchers I ever threw to was Joe Girardi (now Yankees manager). I played with Mark Grace. Those were some guys who knew what they were doing.

**CT:** You were born in Germany but didn't grow up there. You dad was in the Army, right?

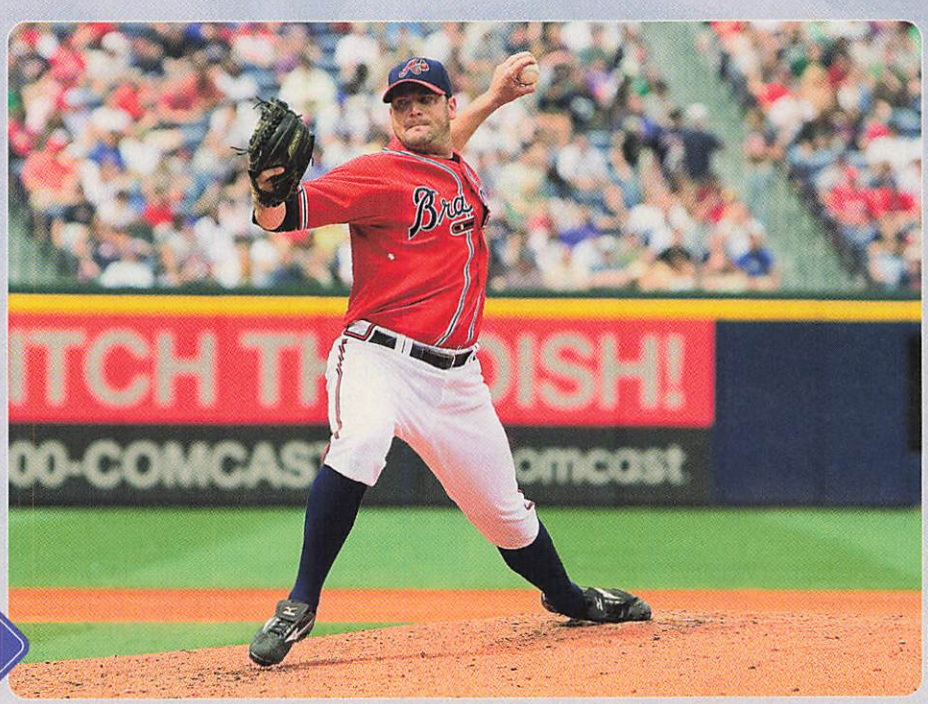
**OHMAN:** He was an intelligence analyst, and I was two years old when we came home. He went to seminary in California. We lived there for five years, then spent another five years in Seattle, and in 1988, we moved to Parker, Colorado.

**CT:** Are the stereotypes of "preacher's kids" true?

**OHMAN:** (Laughs) We're not going to blow my cover are we? Let's just say there was a tone of rebellion in my own life, and there was sometimes a lackadaisical effort to better my life through faith. The faith still remains and is quite strong.

**CT:** Is there anything you'd like the reading public to know about Will Ohman, setup guy?

**OHMAN:** In a lot of ways, I feel like the luckiest guy on the planet. I'm married for almost 10 years to my college sweetheart. I've got 2 1/2 year old twins, a boy (Jack) and a girl (Annabel), and I get to see them run around on a big league baseball field in little jerseys that look like mine. Everyday I get to put on a uniform and live the dream I had as a 6-year-old. I'm pretty fortunate. That's something that most people don't get to do, and I don't ever want to forget that I was one of those kids sitting in the seats.

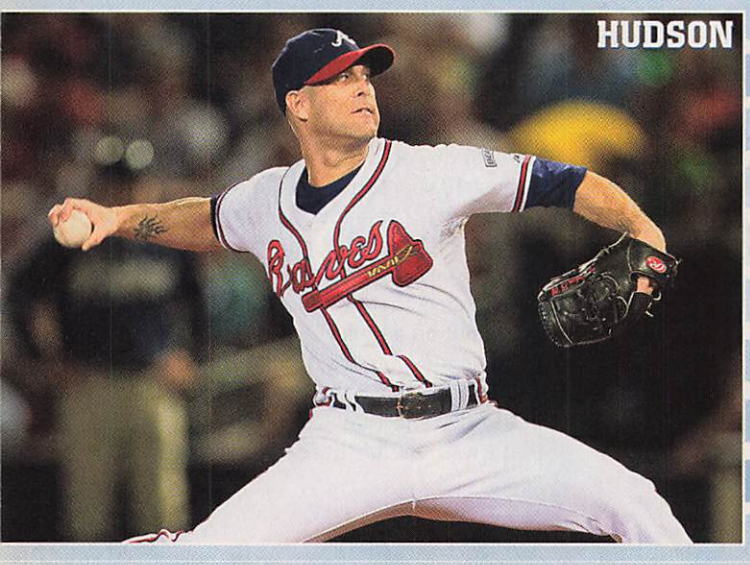


ATLANTA BRAVES: PAUL ABELL

At the All-Star break, Ohman had appeared in 49 games, tied for third in the league, and was working on a string of nine straight scoreless outings.

# Surprise!

## Patchwork Pitching Staff's Unlikely Success Ranks As an "Organizational Triumph"



BY RAY GLIER

**It's impossible** to find a common denominator with the members of the Braves' pitching staff, something that explains this organizational triumph by an injury-riddled staff that's been at or near the top of the National League in ERA much of the season.

For example:

There are pitchers like Jair Jurrjens and Charlie Morton who got to Atlanta because scouts were impressed with their arms, not necessarily their numbers. There is Jorge Campillo, who made it because the front office was impressed by his numbers, not necessarily by his arm.

There's Charlie Morton, who once looked like he might not escape Class A, yet found new life. There's Jeff Bennett, who developed a new pitch to help rebuild his career after elbow surgery. Then there's Will Ohman, who looked shaky last year in a Cubs uniform at Wrigley Field, but was lights out when he pitched on the road.

There's also Jo-Jo Reyes, who looked overmatched last season but rebounded in a solid manner this year. And there's Buddy Carlyle, who continues to refine his craft and his role with the Braves.

During the Braves' run of division titles, it was easy to explain the team's pitching success. The cornerstone was starting pitching with Greg Maddux, John Smoltz and Tom Glavine winning six Cy Young Awards in eight seasons from 1991-98.

These days, success is not so easy to explain. By July 10, the Braves had used 22 pitchers.

The Braves led the National League in opponents' batting average on July 1, even though six pitchers who were supposed to form the core of the staff - Smoltz, Glavine, Mike Hampton, Mike Gonzalez, Peter Moylan and Rafael Soriano - spent large chunks of time on the disabled list.

"We were intentional in trying to load up in pitching depth this winter because we were going to need them," said GM Frank Wren, "but we didn't know that we would need them this much. It's held together."

Said Ohman, with a smile, "The Braves ran out of arms last season. Not this season."

Ohman, the left-handed reliever, pointed around the clubhouse at various teammates who have had their arms opened by a doctor and tried to explain the resiliency of the staff.

"Jorge Campillo had Tommy John surgery. Jo-Jo (Reyes) has had (elbow) surgery, and so did Blaine Boyer (shoulder). Let's see, who else? Jeff Bennett has had arm surgery," Ohman said.

Then he jabbed a thumb at himself.

"I've had three surgeries," Ohman said.

When he was through talking about the scars that come from the surgeon, Ohman started talking about the scars that come from being scuffed around by big league hitters and how some pitchers have to dig in to stay in the big leagues.

"The guys that have been asked to jump in here and pitch a lot because of all the injuries have been through adversity," Ohman said. "We have some things in common around here and have come together."

worked with Mississippi Braves pitching coach Derek Botelho and turned a corner in his career. He was with the Triple-A Richmond Braves when the Atlanta staff started to break down, and he was called up and held his own during his first taste of the majors.

"It wasn't like when we had a need and took the best available guy," Wren said. "The Triple-A staff recommended him and said he was ready."

Jurrjens, only 22 years old, and 33-year-old Tim Hudson, have been the two most valuable pitchers on the staff.

Acquired in a trade with Detroit for Edgar Renteria last October, Jurrjens had a modest 4.70 last year in his first seven games in the majors with the Tigers. But Braves scout Tony DeMacio saw a young pitcher who was dealing with the sluggers of the American League Central and did not consider 4.70 a true measure of his pitching.

**At the All-Star break, this unlikely rotation, backed by a makeshift bullpen, had the Braves ranked second in the NL in team ERA, barely behind the Dodgers.**

PHOTOS: ATLANTA BRAVES/PAUL ABELL

You almost have to go pitcher by pitcher to explain how the Braves' ERA has hovered under 3.75.

Take Bennett, the right-handed reliever, who had a 2.60 ERA in May when the injuries started to mount. Guy Hansen, the Richmond Braves pitching coach, said it was suggested Bennett, who spent most of 2007 in the minors, learn a two-seam fastball, which is a heavy sinker. Bennett did and blossomed.

Look at Morton, the slender 6-foot-4 righthander, a third-round pick in 2002 who spent three years (2004-06) in Class A and was starting to look like he might not make it in spite of possessing terrific stuff.

"There was as much discussion about him as any pitcher in the system last year," Hansen said. "I wouldn't say it was controversial, but there was a debate. Did we leave him in A ball again for 2007 or push him to Double-A and force the issue and see what he was made of."

Morton was sent to Double-A in 2007 and

## HOW THIS STAFF STACKS UP

| Season | ERA | (NL Rank) |
|---|---|---|
| 2008* | 3.69 | (2ND) |
| 2007 | 4.11 | (3RD) |
| 2006 | 4.60 | (9TH) |
| 2005 | 3.98 | (6TH) |
| 2004 | 3.74 | (1ST) |
| 2003 | 4.10 | (9TH) |
| 2002 | 3.13 | (1ST) |
| 2001 | 3.59 | (1ST) |
| 2000 | 4.05 | (1ST) |
| 1999 | 3.63 | (1ST) |
| 1998 | 3.25 | (1ST) |
| 1997 | 3.18 | (1ST) |
| 1996 | 3.52 | (2ND) |
| 1995 | 3.44 | (1ST) |
| 1994 | 3.57 | (2ND) |
| 1993 | 3.14 | (1ST) |
| 1992 | 3.14 | (1ST) |
| 1991 | 3.49 | (3RD) |

* Through July 13

John Coppolella, the Braves' director of baseball administration who scouts numbers, also looked at Jurrjens' 7-5 record and 3.20 ERA at Double-A Erie in 2007.

"Jurrjens pitched in a big-time hitters park in Erie," Coppolella said. "On the road, his ERA in the Eastern League was 1.66."

Campillo was signed as a free agent in December after Seattle cast him aside, unimpressed by a fastball that tops out at 86 miles per hour. He was recommended by Dave Brundage, the Richmond manager who was in the Seattle organization, and Coppolella lent some numbers to the evaluation and the decision to sign Campillo.

"Jorge had Tommy John surgery following the 2005 season, and typically you are not back to full strength for 18 months, which would place him in the middle of 2007," Coppolella said. "He had 1.99 ERA in the second half last season.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# A YEAR OF REHAB WAS BLESSING IN DISGUISE

**MY FIRST NIGHT BACK,** at Texas (June 18), was huge. It was something I'd looked forward to since May 31, last year, when I had (elbow) surgery.

The anticipation was ridiculous. I felt the emotion and the adrenaline rush, and I think being away (from Turner Field) might have helped, because you saw the difference of how John Smoltz came in (when he pitched his last game of 2008). He shouldn't have been able to throw over 85 mph with that hurt shoulder, but he was throwing 95. That's what adrenaline does to you.

My approach is a whole different story now. Every time I go out there, I'm pitching as if it's the last time I'll pitch. The emotion you see is genuine. I don't think I took having good health for granted. I'd had injuries, but I don't think I appreciated playing as much as I do now.

I've always been a hard worker. Whether it's cardio or trying to get stronger, better - I'm always trying to do something to get that edge. I've been told by the training staff that it comes back and bites me because I've pushed too hard. But I've started to figure out what my body needs to maintain the level where I want to be. I try not to push it too much, but I'd rather have to back off than not push hard enough. I'd never want to say I didn't give it my all.

Smoltz worked with me from day one of the rehab. He could see the anxiousness I had (to throw), and now I see the same thing in Peter Moylan. Having John around after my surgery was great. It was invaluable.

> "EVERY TIME I GO OUT THERE, I'M PITCHING AS IF IT'S THE LAST TIME I'LL PITCH. THE EMOTION YOU SEE IS GENUINE."

Before, I've healed quickly and tried to get back quickly. This time, while I feel I healed quickly, I've taken it back a notch. I think that was the key to be where I am. The longest setback I had was three days. I've heard some guys say they were set back a month or more. I just thank God that I didn't have to go through that.

I know I'm still in the process of healing, and I'm not throwing 100 percent. But I can compete, and that's what matters. I'm at about 90 percent. My slider isn't always there. I'm used to always having my fastball, but sometimes it's not there and I've had to work on other pitches.

I've had better control through rehab because I didn't have that dominant 90- to 95-plus fastball. I had to work with 87-88 down in rookie ball. (The injury) taught me to pitch, a little bit. When the velocity comes up and you're able to work it all in, the speed, the location, you become a better pitcher.

I'm definitely feeling soreness the day after I pitch, especially if it's a save situation. It's not the same (in the majors) as Richmond. It's a sense that "you've got to get through me, and you're not going to do it." That much intensity through a five- or eight-minute span can take a toll on you.

You don't feel anything at the time. Twenty minutes later and, all of a sudden, you can't put gel in your hair! You forget that 20 minutes ago everything that was in you was in your arm.

I'm one of the last guys to leave the ballpark after the game, because I have to stay here and ice my arm and work out.

I've always been kind of a "rocker" on the mound, but I think I do more of that now. When I was pitching in Florida, I was having a hard time getting my emotions up for a noon game that didn't really mean anything. I needed something to get my rhythm going. The side-to-side rocking gives me a rhythm and made me feel more intense.

I look at the whole injury and rehab as a blessing in disguise. I wouldn't have been able to take it to the next level if I hadn't gotten hurt and learned what I learned over the past year.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Now to do that in the Pacific Coast League is eye-popping. These are very small parks, and we do park factors for each league, and 1.99 was very good."

Ohman, who pitched for the Cubs in 2007, was another pitcher who was studied closely by the numbers. Coppolella pointed out that the lefthander had an ERA of 8.66 in 27 games at Wrigley, but on the road, he was superb (1.45 ERA in 29 games). That knowledge helped convince the Braves to snatch him when the Cubs put him on the trade market last winter.

Wren said Atlanta is still an organization that relies on the eyes of its scouts and that the Braves are not passing judgment on talent based on computer modeling alone. Coppolella, who was hired for his statistical knowledge, also said the foundation for player development and evaluation is still the scouts, but he is grateful to have some input in the process.

"We are still strong in scouting, and we still have very high placement for tools," Coppolella said. "But you want to have as much information as you can. Frank signs off on a lot of this stuff."

Another slice of the Braves' pitching success came with planning for the National League East and the unbalanced schedule of 18 games against division opponents. Each of those opponents, the Marlins, Mets, Phillies and Nationals, had dangerous left-handed hitters, so the Braves made sure they stocked up with left-handed arms - Ohman, Gonzalez, Royce Ring, to go with starters Glavine, Hampton and Jo-Jo Reyes or Chuck James.

Hansen, the Richmond coach, said minor league staff members have an impact on young pitchers getting ready for the big leagues, but he also said the major league coaches and veteran pitchers keep them from wobbling on their callup.

"When I was with Kansas City, a young pitcher would get called up and there was no one there to mentor him. They just didn't have that veteran presence the Braves have," Hansen said.

The Braves have been quick to heap praise on Roger McDowell, who is in his third season as major league pitching coach, and his singular approach to each pitcher. However, he does not want any part of the applause.

"Not interested," he said when he was asked to comment on his influence with the staff. "Go talk to the pitchers."

Better yet, just look at what they've accomplished.

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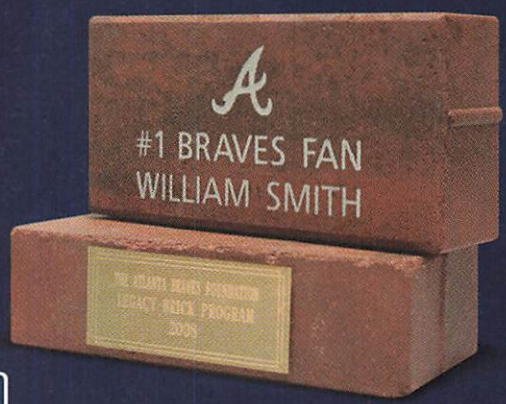


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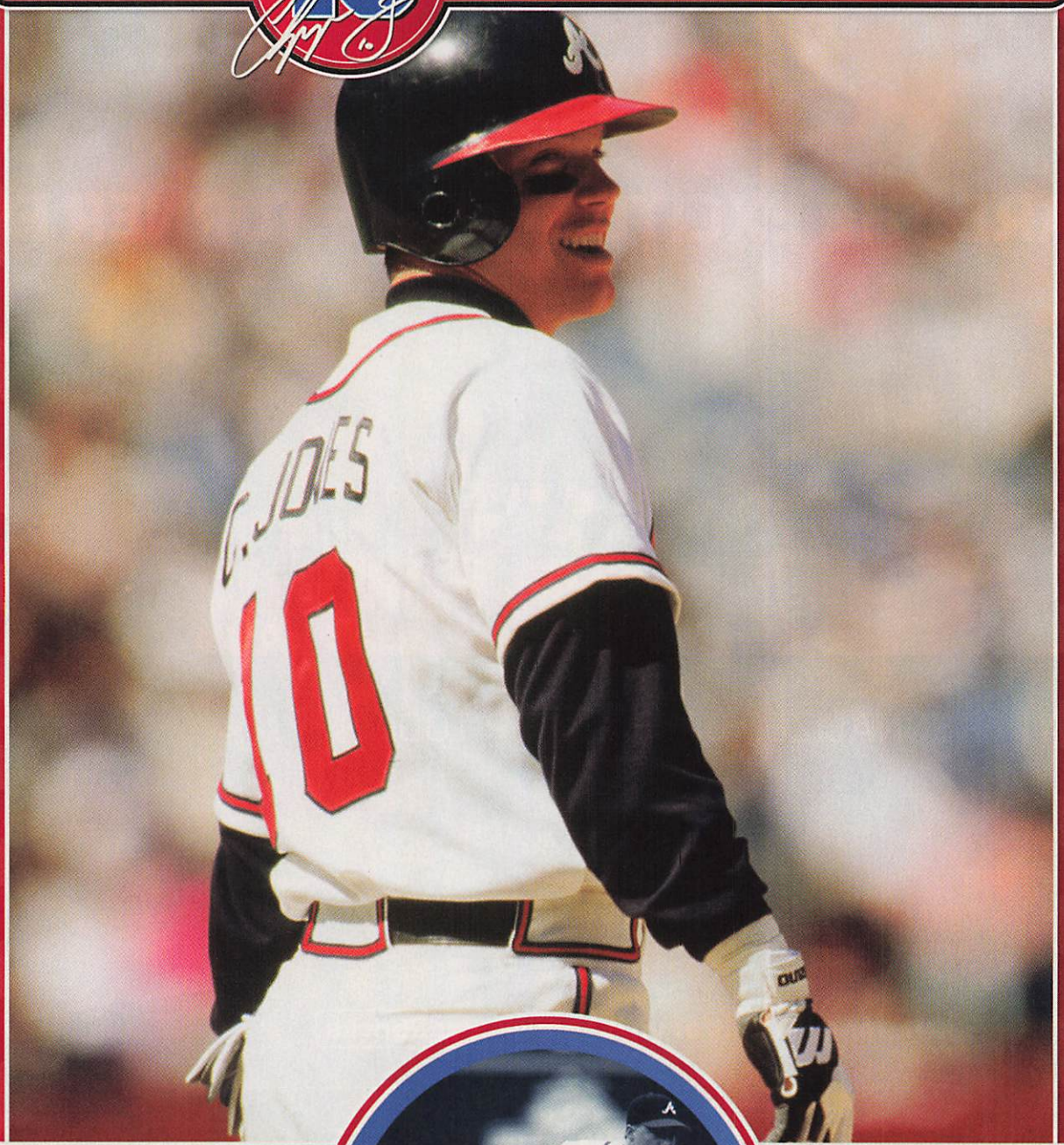
SECOND IN A SERIES

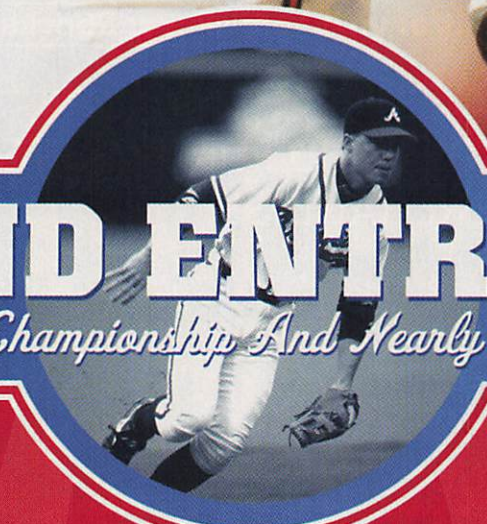
CHIPPER #10 THROUGH THE YEARS




PHOTOS: ATLANTA BRAVES

# GRAND ENTRANCE

*For Starters: A World Championship And Nearly The Rookie of The Year*



BY JON COOPER

**Destiny can be unpredictable,** taking shape in strange ways, and not always in the form expected. When the Braves drafted Chipper Jones in 1990, they thought they had their shortstop of the future. Turned out they had a piece of the future, only it was a few feet to the right.

After overcoming a torn ACL in his left knee and waiting through the 1994 players' strike just to get on the field, Jones found himself facing a new challenge in 1995, thanks to the departure of starting third baseman Terry Pendleton via free agency. Bobby Cox chose Jones to replace Pendleton.

"I'd never played third base, ever, in my life," Chipper said, breaking into a smile. "But at that point, I was just thankful that whenever we had a hole, Bobby was willing to plug me in. Just as long as I got the opportunity to start my career and make a name for myself."

"There was no doubt in my mind," said Cox, who also tried Chipper at both corner outfield spots. "He was a ballplayer in high school, and ballplayers, you can count on them. He could do everything. Moving to third base was a great idea."

Great idea, indeed. Thrown into the third spot in the batting order, between shortstop Jeff Blauser and first baseman Fred McGriff, Jones' power came slowly, but when he finally did go deep, it was a sign of great things to come. On May 9, in the ninth inning at Shea Stadium, his first home run came off righty reliever Josias Manzanillo and beat the Mets, 3-2.

"I got a 2-0 fastball," he recalled. "Nowadays I might not look 2-0 fastball. But back then, when you're a rookie and you've got Fred McGriff hitting behind you, you can pretty much guarantee you're going to see a fastball. I got the head out and hit it great. That was just the start of a lot of memories that I had in that stadium."

It was the start of a lot of memories throughout 1995. Jones heated up, finishing the year leading all major league rookies in RBIs (86, one off the Atlanta rookie record set in 1971 by Earl Williams), games, starts, plate appearances, at-bats and runs, was second in homers, hits and walks, and was third in extra-base hits.

Having moved to the NL East the year before, the Braves took the division lead on July 4 and cruised to their first title in their new division, winning it by 21 games, the most ever by a Braves team.

In his first taste of the post-season, Jones, a .265 hitter during the season, batted .418, getting hits in 12 of the 14 games he played in the Braves' run to the World Series championship.

So much for rookie jitters.

"He never has shown jitters," said Cox. "He doesn't scare at all. I've never seen a nervous bone in his body."

Jones credits that fearlessness to the mindset he was taught in the Braves' minor league system.

"The group of guys that I came up with were groomed not to be the 'weak link' when we got to the big league level," said Jones, who hit two homers in his playoff debut at Colorado, including the game-winner in the top of the ninth. "When we got there, we were all ready to contribute and produce at a high level."

While he calls most of his rookie season "a whirlwind," Jones distinctly remembers being around the pile at the pitcher's mound in Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium the night of Oct. 28.

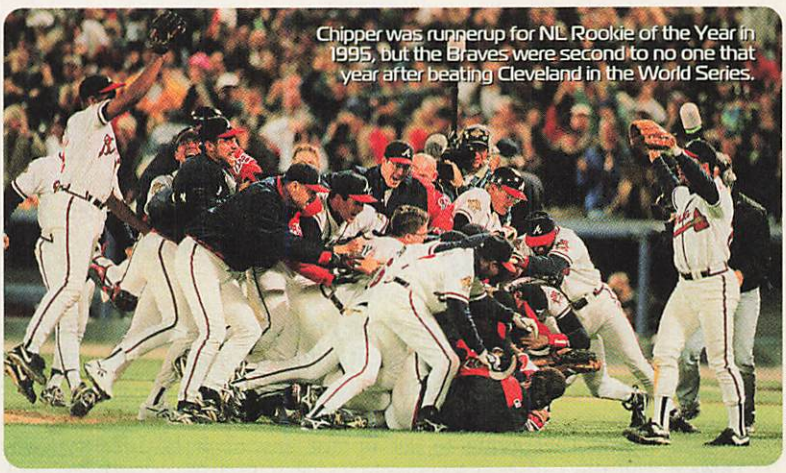
"It doesn't get any better than winning the World Series in your rookie year," he said. "I can just remember never having played the game on such an adrenaline high for so long. It felt like for two or three weeks you were just constantly riding that wave of adrenaline. It was something that I never experienced before. I wouldn't trade my rookie season for anything else in my career."

While his rookie season was second-to-none, he ended up second to one - Dodgers pitcher Hideo Nomo - in NL Rookie of the Year voting.

That was about the only thing that didn't go right for Jones in 1995.

"You only get one chance to do that, and it was important to him," remembered his father, Larry Jones. "I'm sure there was a pretty good amount of disappointment involved in him not becoming the Rookie of the Year."

But any disappointment quickly disappeared the following season, when Jones picked up where he left off in the '95 post-season. The Braves dominated again, taking the division lead for good on May 17. Chipper led the May charge, hitting a scorching .340 as the Braves went 19-6 to go from a game-and-half back to five games up.



Chipper was runnerup for NL Rookie of the Year in 1995, but the Braves were second to no one that year after beating Cleveland in the World Series.

ATLANTA BRAVES

Chipper hit .300 with 98 hits, including 17 homers, and 66 RBIs in that season's first half, and was rewarded with his first All-Star Game appearance, joining Cox and teammates Tom Glavine, Greg Maddux, John Smoltz, Mark Wohlers and McGriff in Philadelphia and starting in place of injured San Francisco Giants third baseman Matt Williams.

"Getting to stand on the foul line and getting announced with all the great players, it was awesome," he recalled of the NL's 6-0 victory, in which he also scored a run. "I got a basehit off Charlie Nagy in my first All-Star at-bat, and that was quite a thrill."

Jones finished 1996 strong and ended the season as the team leader in batting average (.309), on-base percentage (.396), runs (114), RBIs (110), and extra-base hits (67). He became the first Braves third baseman with at least 30 doubles and 30 homers since Hall of Famer Eddie Mathews in 1953 and the first Brave since Dale Murphy in 1985 to hit over .300, hit 30 homers, drive in 100 runs and score 100 runs.

All that offense dried up in that year's Division Series, when Atlanta hit only .180 and scored just 10 runs, but the Braves still

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# DODGERS SHOPPING FOR FURCAL'S REPLACEMENT

**THE DODGERS** were interested in Pirates shortstop **Jack Wilson**, a move that seemingly would preclude them from re-signing **Rafael Furcal**. Wilson has not played any position but shortstop in the majors. His bat profiles even worse at third than it does at short, and also would be a significant comedown at second from **Jeff Kent**. Another option for the Dodgers would be to sign Diamondbacks second baseman **Orlando Hudson** in free agency, and turn over short to one of their younger shortstops, **Chin-Lung Hu** or **Ivan DeJesus Jr.**

Power hitters are increasingly difficult to find, yet the Reds found little initial trade interest in leftfielder **Adam Dunn**, who was on pace for his fifth straight 40-homer season. Dunn offers both on-base percentage and power, but rival clubs were discouraged by his high strikeout rate and subpar defense.

The Nationals expressed interest in Rockies leftfielder **Matt Holliday**, and from Washington's perspective, it was easy to understand how such a trade could make sense. The Nats' outfield is by far the least productive in the majors. Their attendance is disappointing, their local TV ratings are last in the majors, and their farm system is deep enough to entice other clubs. The Nats were busy on other fronts, as well, drawing interest in closer **Jon Rauch**, who is under club control at low salaries through 2010, righthander **Tim Redding**, who also is not a free agent until after '10, and even lefthander **Odalis Perez**.

Odd as it might sound, Angels closer **Francisco Rodriguez** is effectively shrinking his market as a free agent with each save. Any thought that Rodriguez might accept closer money to set up for a relief ace such as the Yankees' **Mariano Rivera** or the Mets' **Billy Wagner** now borders on absurd. K-Rod isn't going to set up for anyone if he breaks **Bobby Thigpen**'s all-time mark of 57 saves in a season. Still, don't cry for K-Rod: The Angels want to keep him, and the Tigers and Dodgers are among the other high-payroll teams that could pursue closers.

Why did Mets leftfielder **Fernando Tatis** return to baseball after sitting out in 2004 and '05? "Unbelievable story," he said. Tatis wanted to buy a piece of land for his church in his hometown of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic. He told his wife that the way he could acquire the land – and enable the church to build a bigger home – would be to resume his playing career. He signed a minor-league contract and returned to the majors with the Orioles in '06. After spending all of '07 at Triple-A with the Mets, he has emerged as one of the team's biggest surprises.

**Davey Johnson**, the U.S. manager in the Futures Game and in the upcoming Olympics, joked that he taught A's general manager **Billy Beane** "everything he knows" about statistical analysis. Johnson, who was manager with the Mets in 1984 and '85 when Beane was an outfielder there, first saw the value in numbers when he was playing for the Orioles and writing out lineups for **Earl Weaver**. "It's not rocket science," Johnson said.

- KEN ROSENTHAL IS A SENIOR WRITER FOR FOXSPORTS.COM

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

swept the Dodgers, with Chipper supplying the two-run homer that KO'ed Nomo in the Game 3 finale.

Then, after spotting St. Louis a 3-1 lead in the LCS - including a pair of one-run losses in Games 3 and 4 - the Braves stormed back to win the final three games, outscoring the Cardinals, 32-1. Jones credited St. Louis closer Dennis Eckersley for turning things around.

"After Game 4, Eckersley closed it out, and he looked right in our dugout and he pumped his fist," Chipper recalled. "I can just remember everybody coming back into the locker room after that game and saying, 'These guys, they're not beating us again. They will not beat us again.' None of us was willing to let it happen."

"All it takes is something little to inspire a group of very talented athletes," he added. "Dennis Eckersley inspired us, and we went on to the World Series."

Atlanta carried that fire into the World Series, beating the Yankees at Yankee Stadium by a combined 16-1 in the first two games. But New York won what would be the final three games played at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, then took Game 6, 3-2, in New York.

"I'm a little disappointed in what happened there," said Chipper. "It was one of the only years I thought after it was all over that we got beat by a lesser team. It was really disappointing not to bring home two (World Championships) in a row."

Adding to that disappointment is that Chipper was on deck with runners on first and second and the Braves down a single run when the final out of that Series was recorded. "I've heard him say, 'I would have loved to have had that at-bat right there,'" his dad said.

The Braves were determined to get back to the World Series in 1997 and bury the ghosts of the previous year's World Series with those of their old stadium. It didn't take long for Jones to make history in the team's new digs, getting the first hit at Turner Field with two out in the first inning off Chicago righthander Kevin Foster.

"I remember thinking, 'Man, I hope the first two guys don't do it before I get a chance to,'" Chipper recalled with a smile. "I got the last hit at Fulton County Stadium, if you count the playoffs, and I remember thinking how cool it would be to get the last one there and the first one here. I'm proud to have my name by the first hit."

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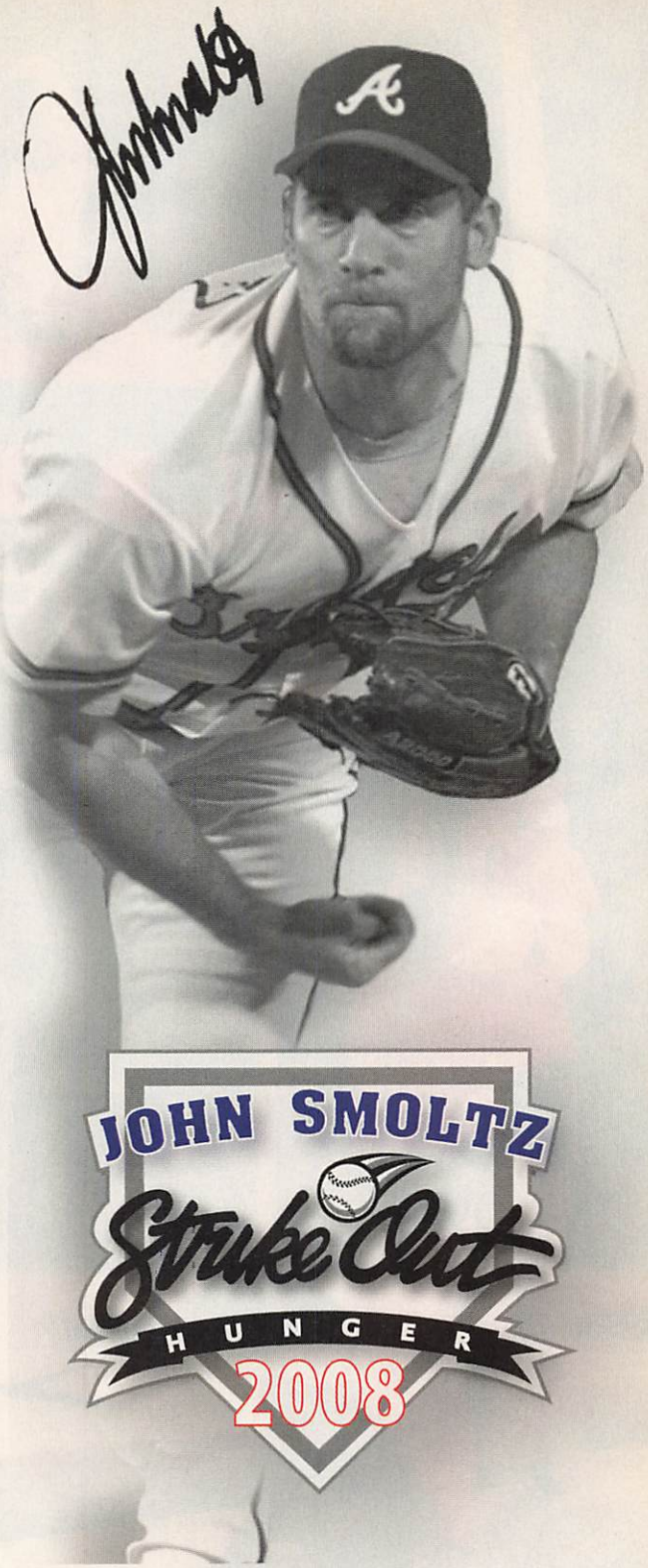


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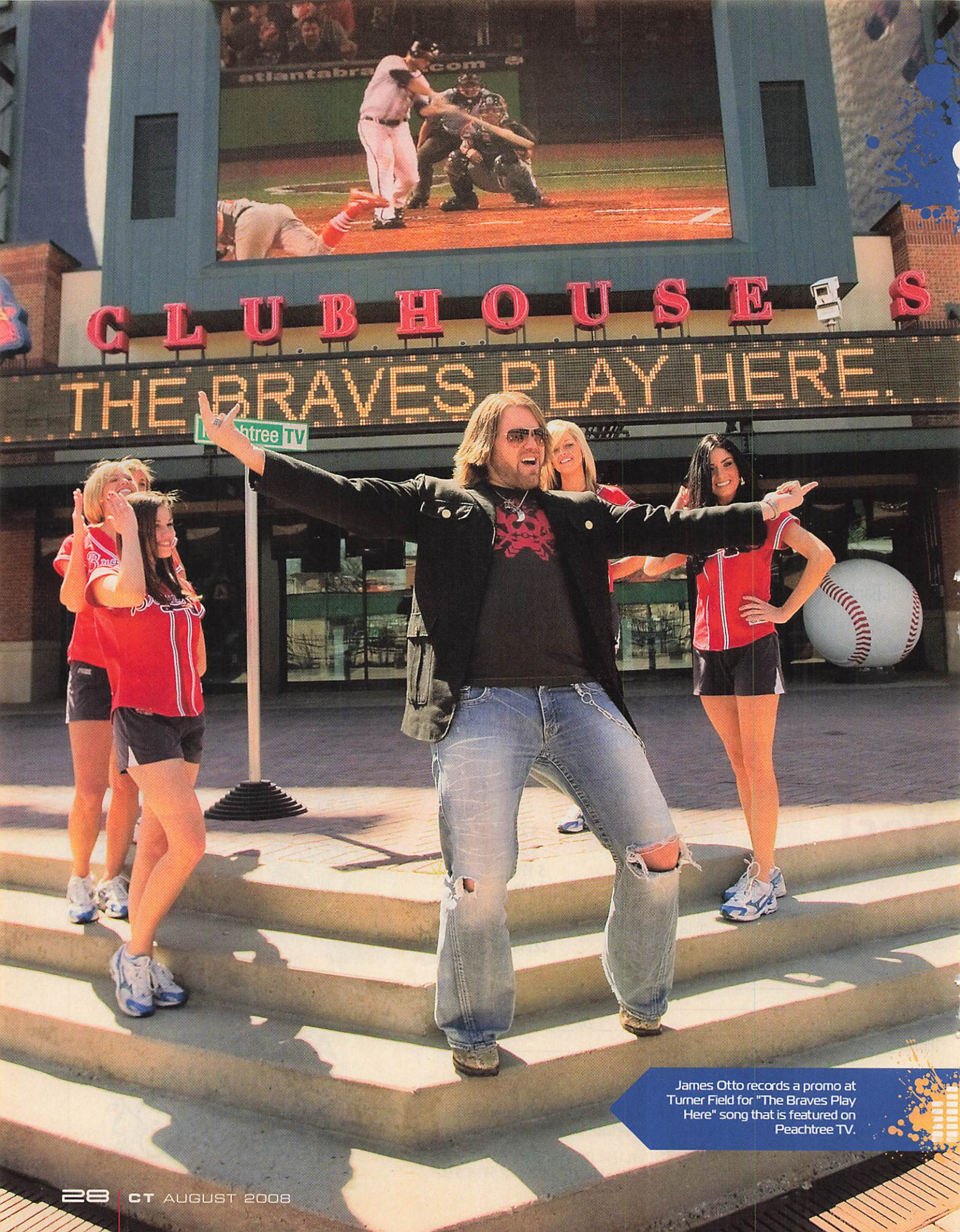


James Otto records a promo at Turner Field for "The Braves Play Here" song that is featured on Peachtree TV.

# Listen To The Music

## Atlanta's Fertile Ground for Song Helps TV Outlets Spice Up Promos

BY JON ROSS

**AS CHIPPER JONES** steps to the plate, the hook for Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train" reverberates throughout Turner Field. But there's something different. The riff, re-imagined by Trick Daddy, is anchored by a solid hip-hop base. It's a rap version of a classic rock tune.

Chipper previously walked out to the original song, but his move to the new sound gives a nod to music many Atlantans hold dear.

Music, especially hip-hop, is everywhere at Braves games – song snippets are used before every batter, between innings, and as accompaniment to action on the video screen.

Outside the ballpark, music plays an even bigger role in bringing fans to the team. Station managers at networks such as SportSouth, FSN South and Peachtree TV find viewers by incorporating music popular among Braves fans into their messaging, creating a genre-based sketch of Southern radio trends. For the most part, this means hip-hop, Southern rock and country.

"Living in Atlanta, music is a huge component of the professional, creative, social scene, and it would seem silly not to mine that treasure chest of talent and resources," said Monica Neal, vice president of Peachtree TV. "If you go back to TBS using Jermaine Dupri and Ludacris, TurnerSouth using Travis Tritt and MC Hammer, I think we've seen that there's been a great resonance among our viewing audience any time we use music in a promotional campaign."

For the 2008 season and the inaugural broadcasts of Braves games on Peachtree TV, Neal and creative services director Brian Slonaker tapped two rising stars in the music world for the station's campaign: "The Braves Play Here."

James Otto – who released his third album, Sunset Man, a week after the Braves' home opener – was chosen to record a song celebrating the Braves. When it came time to film the promo, Otto flew to Atlanta from his home in Nashville to visit Turner Field.

"To get a chance to stand on a field like that – you really, as a fan, dream of doing that," he said. "I had an excellent time going out there and getting to hang out. That's one of those things not everybody gets a chance to do, so I felt pretty honored to be asked to do it."

The chorus for the song is built around a catchy, three-note lyric (also the song's title) and features shout-outs to players such as Brian McCann and Tom Glavine. Slonaker penned the lyrics to a track created by 615 Music, a company that specializes in commercial music.

"People were asking, 'Where's the full version?'" Slonaker said, noting that the words were written for a 30-

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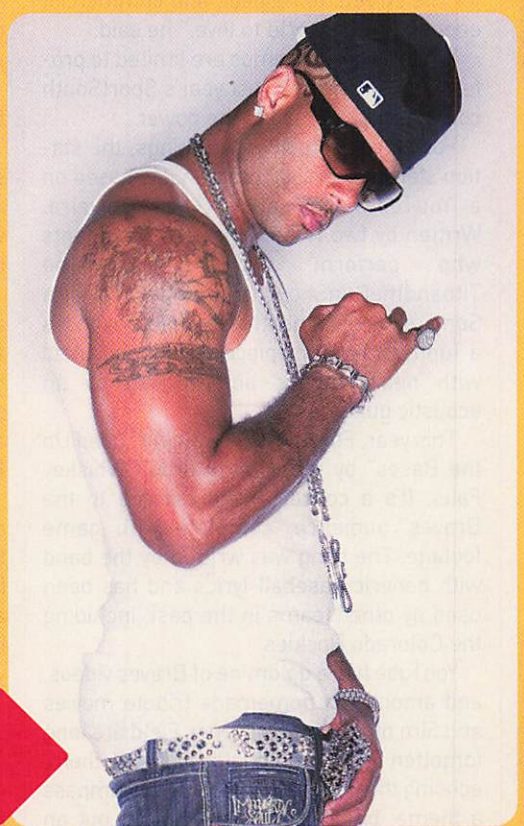

PEACHTREE TV

SPECIAL

Atlanta rapper Vawn says the hardest part of writing lyrics for a Peachtree TV promo was working in names of Braves players.

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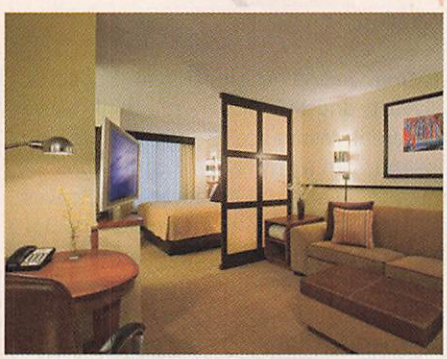

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second commercial. "They wanted to hear the full version of the song."

To change things up a bit, Slonaker also enlisted Vawn, a rapper from Atlanta, for another commercial, and Vawn chose one of his existing songs, "Cuz I Hustle," as the base. The rapper's first album, "Perfect Timing," will be released in August, fitting perfectly with Slonaker's aim to book "up and coming" talent for the channel. And though Vawn picked through his back catalog for the commercial, the song's lyrics were also changed to promote the Braves and Peachtree TV.

"I had a lot of fun, because the Braves make it so easy," Vawn said of writing the lyrics. "The hard part was trying to get the names of the Braves players in there."

Using rap and country music makes sense, Neal said, because of the Braves' location and the demographic she was trying to reach.

"There are a lot of music fans out there who appreciate all types of music. But in combination with being a sports fan, I think the pop-country and the urban hip-hop probably reaches the most," she said.

Vawn's theory is a little different. Downplaying the fact that Atlanta is currently a hotbed of rap activity, the rapper says most of it has to do with the music's crossover appeal.

"I call it 'hood commercial.' Hood enough for the streets to respect, and commercial enough for the world to love," he said.

While most TV promos are limited to professional musicians, last year's SportSouth commercials gave fans the power.

For an amateur twist on things, the station started running commercials based on a YouTube song about Mark Teixeira. Written by two Auburn University students who perform under the name TitoandtheGunShow, the "Mark Teixeira Song" exploded onto the scene last year. It's a funny, irreverent piece of fanhood filled with near rhymes and backed by an acoustic guitar.

This year, Fox Sports is running "Load Up the Bases" by the country group Whiskey Falls. It's a concert video tailored to the Braves' audience, complete with game footage. The song was written by the band with generic baseball lyrics and has been used by other teams in the past, including the Colorado Rockies.

YouTube has a goldmine of Braves videos, and among the homemade tribute movies and film of fans inside Turner Field are long forgotten TV commercials. Many of them, echoing the Peachtree TV spots, encompass a theme, be it artists who just put out an album or musicians based in Atlanta.

In 2002, TBS gave Jermaine Dupri's "Welcome to Atlanta" a Braves makeover. Sticking with the Atlanta theme, creative directors chose city natives to promote the station by singing a short version of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Like the Peachtree TV spots, the TBS commercials represent different genres – Ludacris raps through his spot, and the former-Backstreet Boy Brian Littrell belts his out. The commercials, which are only 15 seconds long, are a good example of hometown spirit mixed with celebrity.

Another popular YouTube video is from TurnerSouth's "My Game, My Team, My South" campaign, which featured Braves players, Bobby Cox, Phil Niekro, Dale Murphy, Sid Bream and MC Hammer. This campaign, produced for the 2006 season, also featured different genres. One of the promos spotlighting Travis Tritt won a Southeast Regional Emmy.

Many of these artists are baseball fans in general and Braves fans in particular. When Vawn starts talking about the team and Peachtree TV, it's hard to keep up with him. He rattles off stories about going to the day games when he was a kid and downing Cokes because of the heat. The rapper now much prefers night games, because it's easier to follow the action when the sun's not beating down on the stadium. He also checks out Atlanta's other teams, but prefers watching Braves games.

"The Braves are one of the best teams that we have, there's no question," he said. "The Falcons are good, and the Hawks are starting to get better, but the Braves are always consistent. We haven't gotten all the way over the hump yet, but we're consistent in winning."

It's a little too early to start conversations about Peachtree TV promos for next year, so for now, Neal and Slonaker are riding the wave of positive feedback from the songs. Neal says they will start thinking about the 2009 season as soon as the Braves play their last game this year.

These brainstorming sessions will aim at improving the spots. Also, because of the campaign's cross-promotional bent (the Braves get publicity just as the rising artists get more TV time), more musicians have been expressing interest in next year's spot.

"Turner now has a reputation for working with different labels and artists," she said. "I'll be very interested in seeing who knocks on our door and is interested in participating with us."

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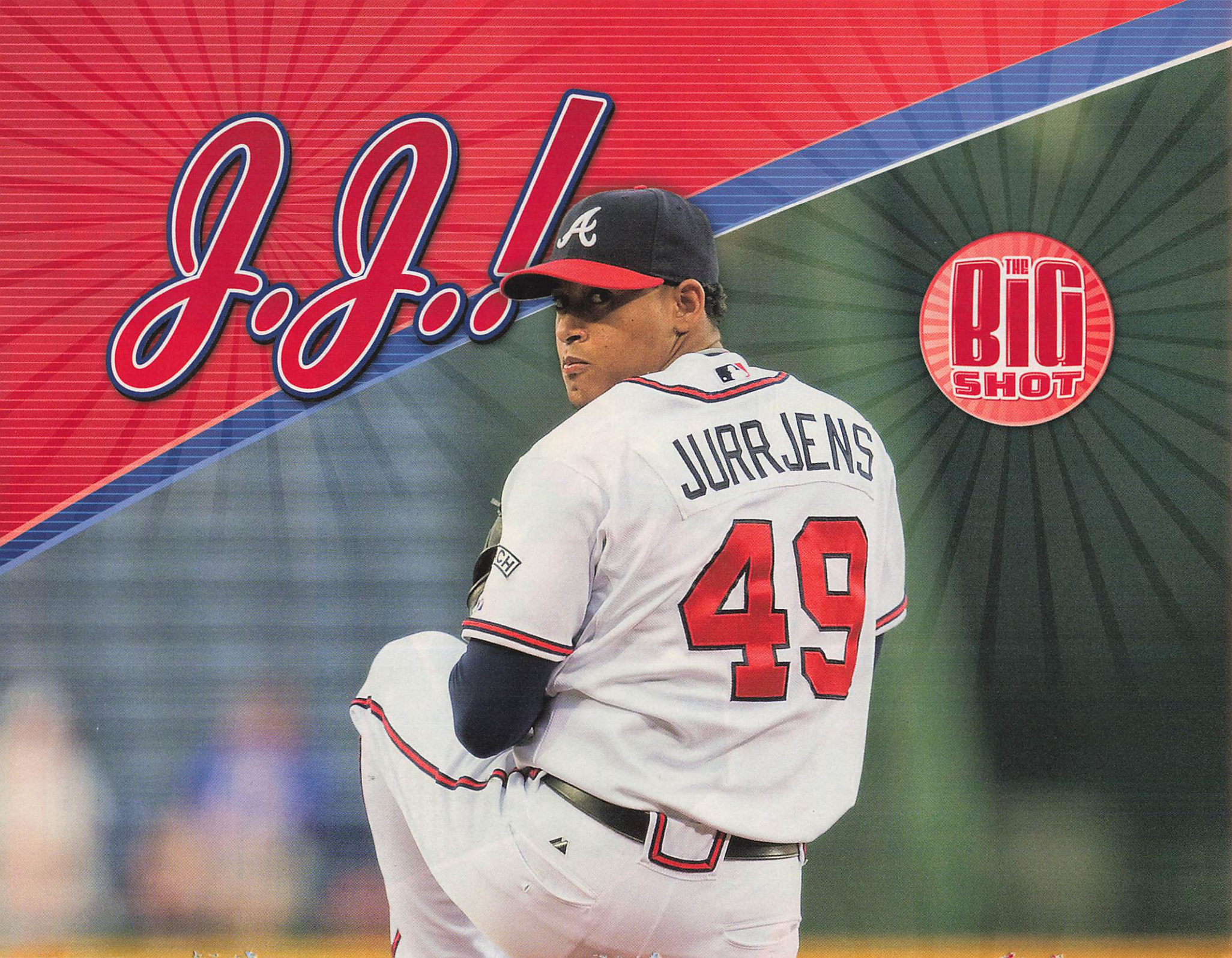
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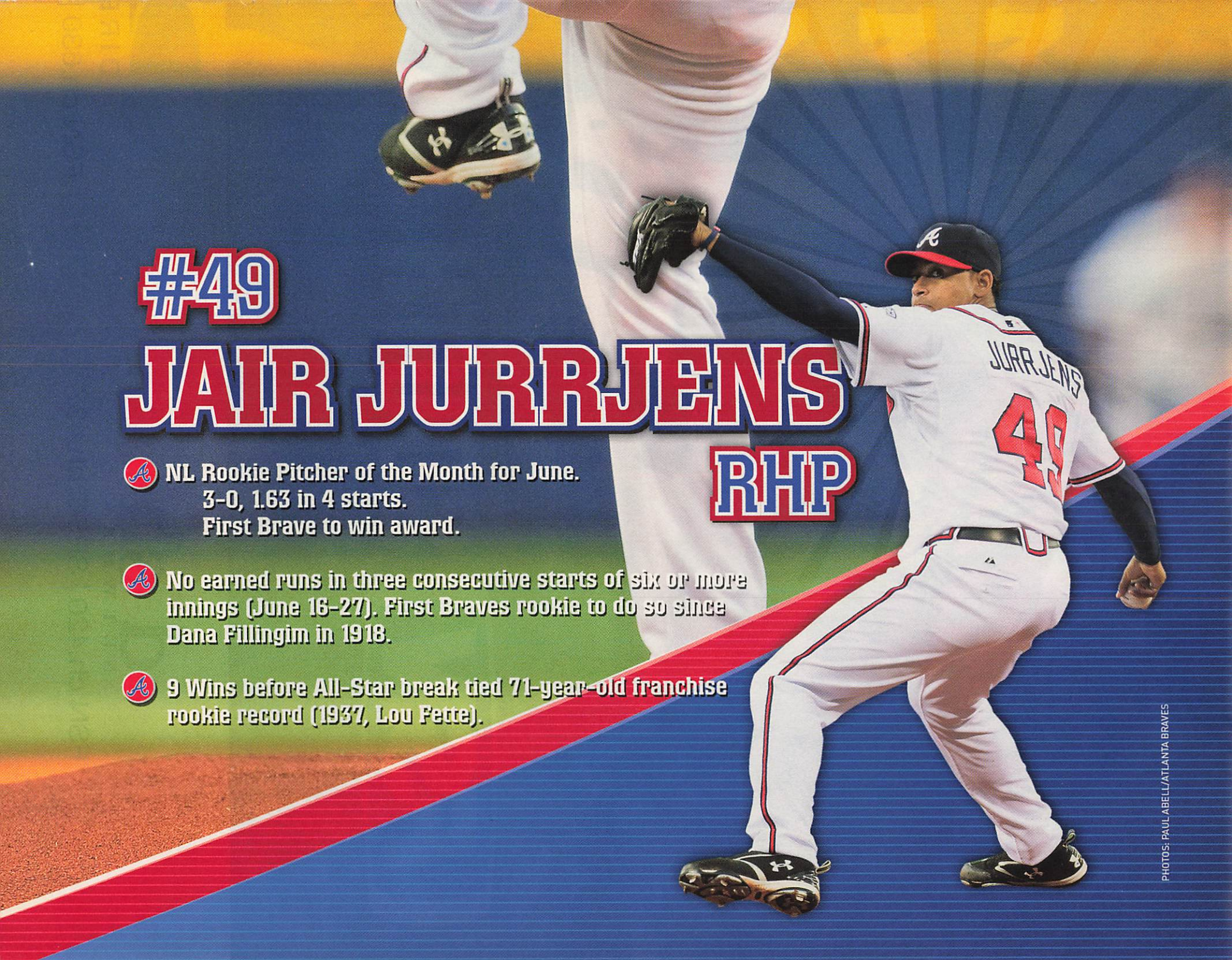
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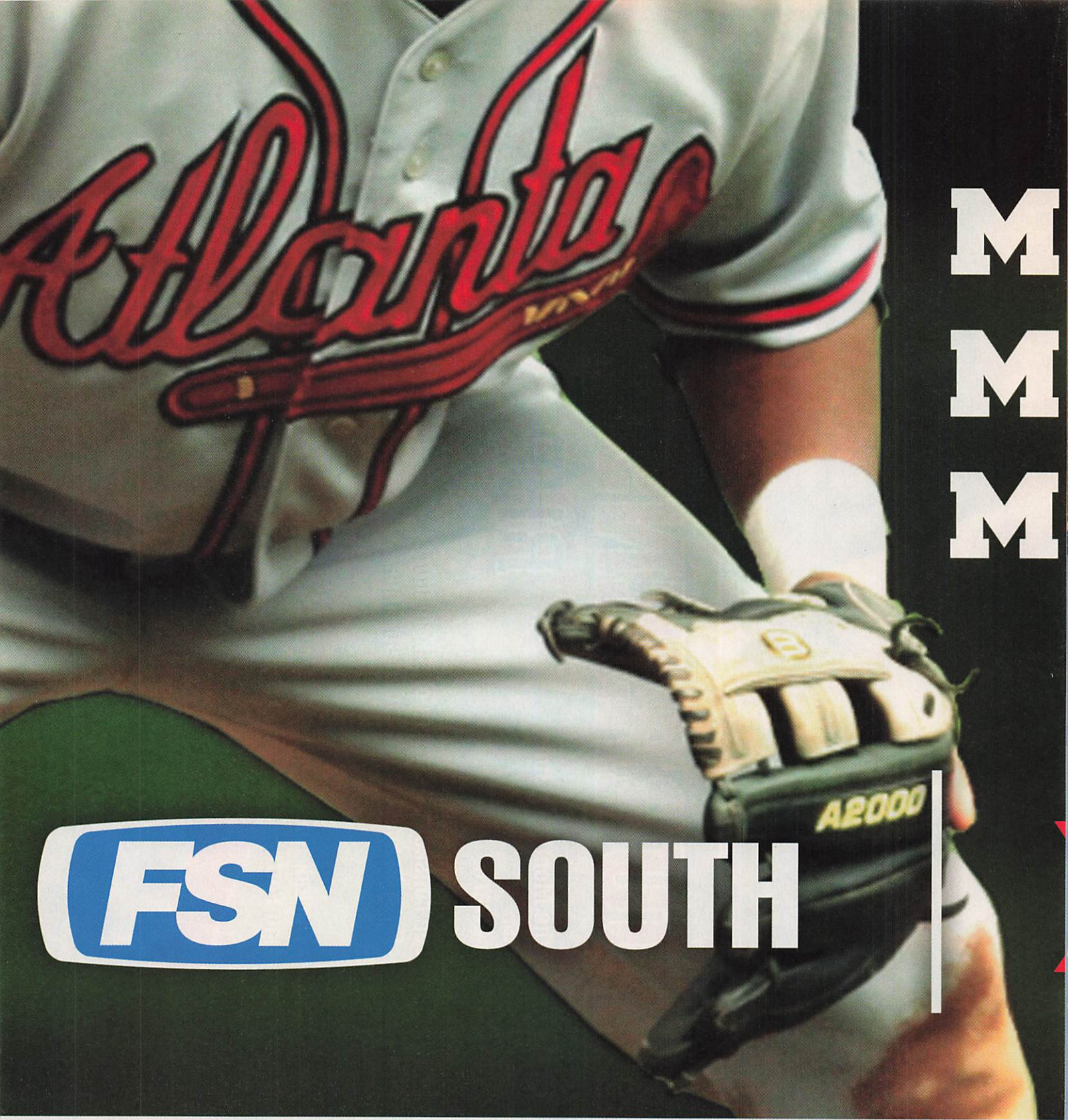


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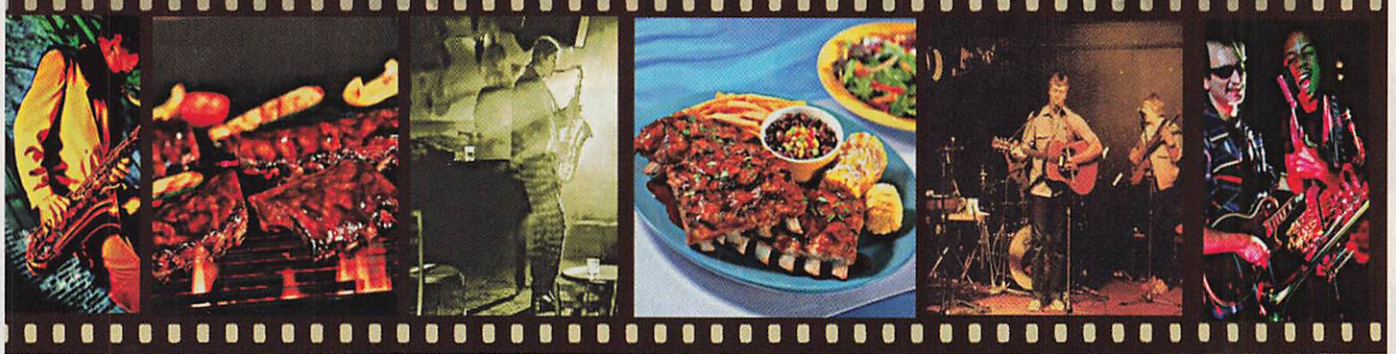

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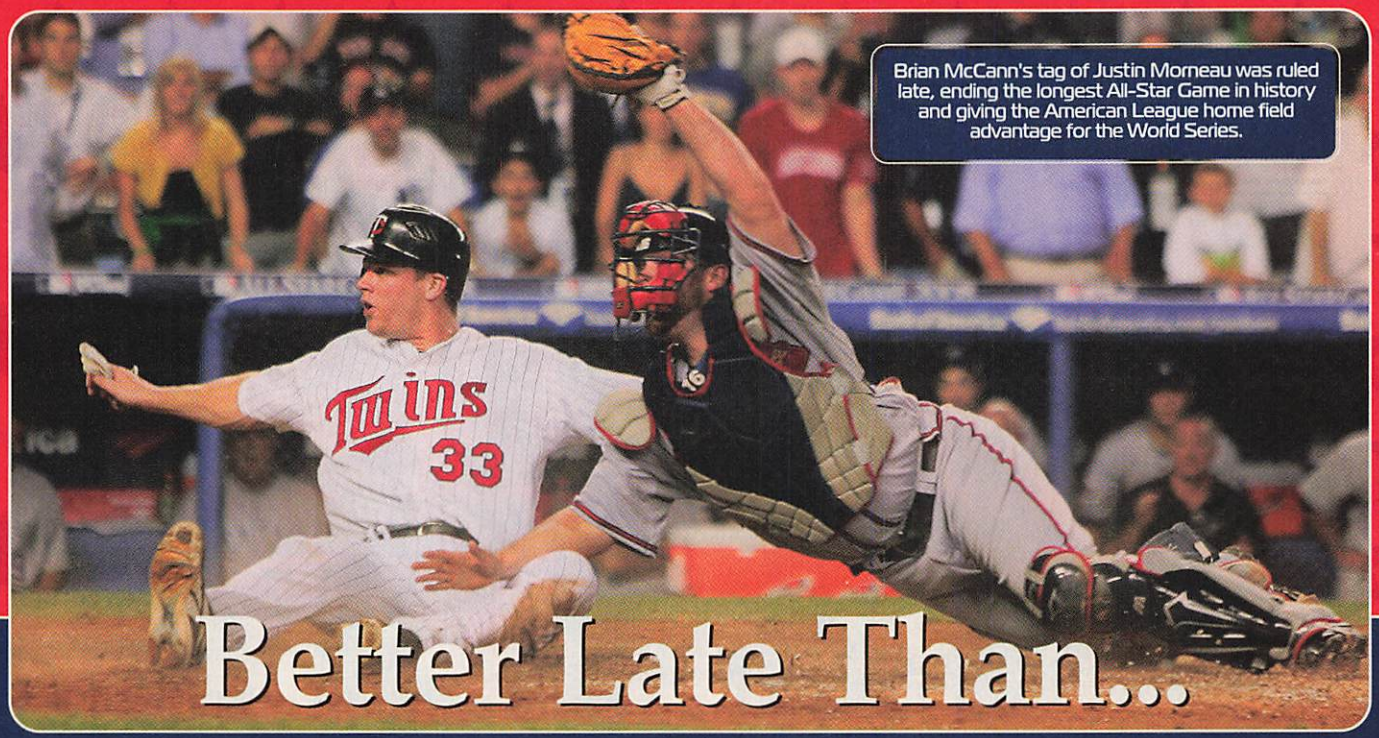


Brian McCann's tag of Justin Morneau was ruled late, ending the longest All-Star Game in history and giving the American League home field advantage for the World Series.

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

# Better Late Than...

## McCann Enters Just In Time for The End; Chipper Strokes First NL Hit

BY STEVE GILBERT OF MLB.COM

**BRIAN McCANN** knew he was likely in for a slow night when he talked with fellow National League catcher Russell Martin in the clubhouse prior the start of the 79th All-Star Game July 15 at Yankee Stadium.

"Before we went out, I was talking to Russell and he said he was going in after [starting catcher Geovany] Soto."

That left McCann as the NL's third catcher, and he realized he might not get into the game.

"It was one of those things where you can't burn all your catchers," McCann said. "I knew I was going to sit there until Russell couldn't go anymore or we needed a pinch-hitter."

What he didn't realize was just how long he was going to have to sit there. As Tuesday became Wednesday and the game set records for the longest game both in terms of time and innings, McCann did whatever he could to keep himself occupied.

He helped warm up the pitchers between innings and otherwise bounced around the dugout, encouraging his teammates.

"I was in the whole game," said the 24-year-old McCann, the first player in Braves history to make the All-Star team in his first three full seasons. "I was watching the whole game."

Finally, in the 15th inning, McCann put on the gear and got behind the plate, but his stay didn't last long. The American League was finally able to put an end to the game when Michael Young's sacrifice fly to right scored Justin Morneau for a 4-3 win.

It figures that the guy who sat around for 4 1/2 hours before getting in would figure in the crucial play, and that's what happened when Morneau slid into home just ahead of McCann's tag.

"Real close," McCann said of the play. "They said he snuck his foot in, but I mean it was real close. You can't really argue in an All-Star Game, but he made the right call."

While McCann's work came late in this one, Braves teammate Chipper Jones' came early.

Jones started at third base for the NL and was 1-for-3. He got the first hit of the night for the NL with a single to center in the second before grounding out to short in the fourth and striking out in the sixth.

"I'm pretty happy getting the first hit for the National League there in the second inning... another career highlight that I'll chalk up," said Jones, who was playing in his sixth All-Star Game but his first since 2001.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ALL-STAR GAME N.Y.C. 2008

The biggest thrill of the night for Jones came before the game even started. When the starting lineups were announced, the players ran out to their positions where they joined a group of Hall of Famers.

"You run out to third base and see Brooks Robinson, Mike Schmidt and Wade Boggs standing next to Alex Rodriguez," said Jones, who was voted as a starter for the fourth time in his career. "That's as good as it gets for guys who've carved a niche at third base through their careers. I think we were all looking forward to the pre-game ceremony. Quite frankly, we're all pretty glad we got to play on this stage tonight."

For McCann, the game helped heal the aches and pains that accumulated during the season's first half.

"That's the best I felt all year, your adrenaline is going so much that you feel nothing," he said. "It was an awesome experience to be here, and I'll have a lot of good memories.

"Somehow, someway I was glad I got in."

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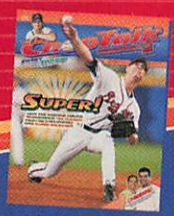

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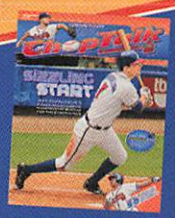

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NOVEMBER 2005
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DECEMBER 2005
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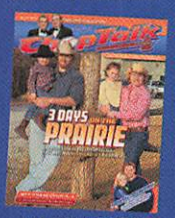

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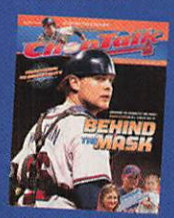
JULY 2006
EDGAR RENTERIA



AUGUST 2006
BRIAN MCCANN

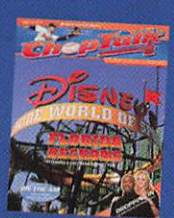
SEPTEMBER 2006
BOB WICKMAN

OCTOBER 2006
JOHN SMOLTZ

NOVEMBER 2006
BOBBY COX

DECEMBER 2006
JEFF FRANCOEUR

JANUARY 2007
RAFAEL SORIANO



FEBRUARY 2007
SPRING TRAINING

MARCH 2007
MIKE GONZALEZ

APRIL 2007
ANDRUW JONES

MAY 2007
HUBBARD AND JOHNSON

JUNE 2007
JOHN SMOLTZ

JULY 2007
DIAZ AND HARRIS

AUGUST 2007
RENTERIA

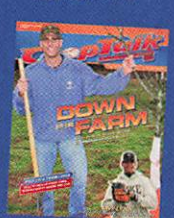
SEPTEMBER 2007
MARK TEIXEIRA

OCTOBER 2007
JEFF FRANCOEUR

NOVEMBER 2007
CHIPPER JONES

DECEMBER 2007
JOHN SMOLTZ

JANUARY 2008
TOM GLAVINE



FEBRUARY 2008
TIM HUDSON

MARCH 2008
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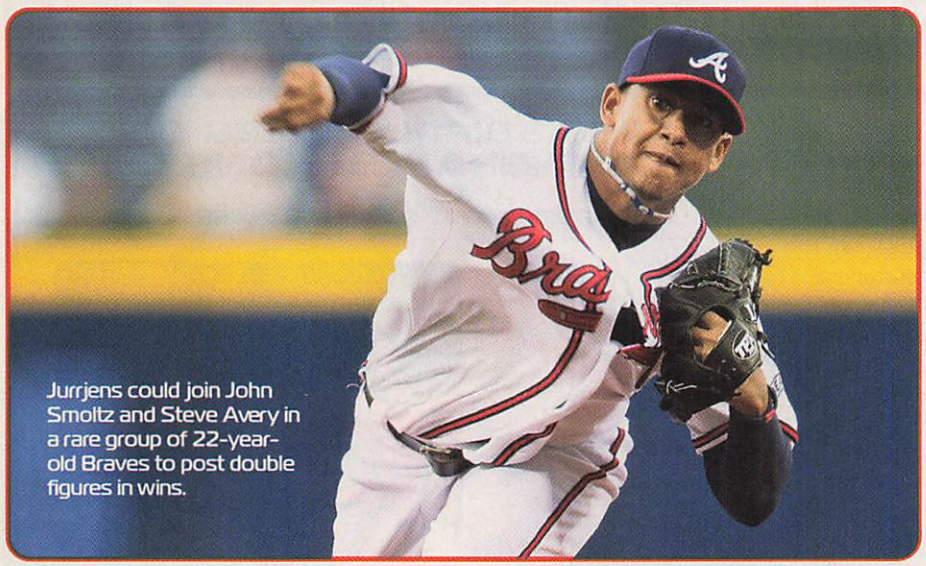
# HOT PURSUIT: JURRJENS, CHIPPER, McCANN



Jurrjens could join John Smoltz and Steve Avery in a rare group of 22-year-old Braves to post double figures in wins.

ATLANTA BRAVES: PAUL ABELL

BY STEVE FALL

**JAIR JURRJENS** led all major league rookies in wins (8) and ERA (3.09) through July 3. In his last three June starts, he did not allow an earned run while working at least six innings each time. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, no other rookie Braves pitcher had accomplished that feat since Dana Fillingim of the 1918 Boston Braves. That's amazing considering all the great pitchers in franchise history.

Jurrjens can become just the fourth Braves pitcher to reach double figures in victories in his age-22 season since 1950. He would join George Stone (13-10 in 1969), John Smoltz (12-11, 1989) and Steve Avery (11-11, 1992).

With a .389 batting average through July 3, Chipper Jones had a chance to post the highest average by a switch-hitting batting title qualifier since 1900. Only two – Mickey Mantle and Willie McGee – have batted over .350 since 1900. Mantle reached that level in both 1957 (.365) and 1956 (.353). McGee hit .353 in 1985. On all three occasions, those players won their league's MVP award.

Jones' torrid hitting pace since the start of the 2006 season – a two-and-a-half-year stretch during which he has batted .344 – has lifted his career average from .303 to .310. That leaves him within striking range of Frankie Frisch's career record for batting average by a switch-hitter (.316).

Only five players Jones' age (36) have batted .350 or higher. Each of them – Zack Wheat (.375), Babe Ruth (.373), Eddie Collins (.360), Tony Gwynn (.353) and Stan Musial (.351) – is in the Hall of Fame.

With 25 doubles, Brian McCann has a chance to break his own record for doubles by a Braves catcher. McCann had 38 two-base hits last year, which surpassed Joe Torre's 36 in 1964. McCann could also shatter Ivan Rodriguez's major league mark for doubles by a catcher (47 in 1996). Hugh Duffy (51 in 1894) holds the franchise record for players of all positions. Since 1950, only Marcus Giles (49 in 2003 and 45 in 2005) and Hank Aaron (46, 1959) have reached 45 doubles as Braves.

The Braves have dominated opponents at home and struggled on the road. They can't buy a win in close games, but play great in all others. A 22-year-old rookie was leading the pitching staff, and a slow-footed catcher paced the club in doubles. The Braves posted the National League's best ERA through June, but had a sub-.500 record. None of it made any sense.

Atlanta was 28-17 at Turner Field for a superb .622 winning percentage (through July 3). On the road, they'd won less than 30 percent of their games (12-29, .293). Their 329-point discrepancy in winning percentage approaches the largest in major league history. The 1945 Philadelphia A's posted a difference of 356 percentage points.

If the Braves maintain their current pace, they will stand alone in franchise history. The Braves have a home/road disparity of more than 200 percentage points in just five seasons since 1900. The 1926 Boston Braves had the largest gap of .252. Then come the Atlanta clubs of 1980 (.242), 1967 (.235), and 1977 (.235). The 1900 Boston Beaneaters had a difference of .233. None of these teams were very successful. Only the 1980 club (81-80) topped the .500 mark.

The Braves' road woes resulted from a puzzling 0-16 record in one-run away games. The team had not posted a one-run road win since August 10, 2007, and their 23-game losing streak marked the longest in major league history.

Atlanta was 4-5 in one-run games at home, giving them a 4-21 record overall. Their .160 winning percentage ranked below every team in franchise history since 1900. Only the 1935 Boston Braves, who finished 7-31 in one-run contests, had a winning percentage (.184) that came close to matching them. That 1935 club also failed to post 10 wins in one-run games, which has never happened in any other season. The next-lowest figure (13) came during the strike-shortened 1994 campaign, when the Braves played only 114 total games.

The Braves have remained in contention due to their 36-25 record in games decided by more than one run. Their winning percentage in these contests (.590) produced another immense disparity when matched against their one-run games percentage of .160. Atlanta played 430 percentage points better in games decided by more than one run. Only once in franchise history (2003) did they have a gap even half that size. The 2003 team, which won the NL East division title with a 101-61 record, had a difference of 295 points. Their extraordinary showing in all other games (84-36, .700) overcame a poor outcome in one-run games (17-25, .405).

Atlanta's 40-46 overall record this season was surprising for another reason: The pitching staff had the NL's second-lowest ERA (3.78). Through the end of June, Atlanta led all teams in ERA (3.69) yet still had a sub-.500 record (40-43). While unusual, this isn't unprecedented. The Pirates ended the 1984 season with the major league's best ERA (3.11). Nonetheless, they finished last in the NL East with a 75-87 record.

BY BILL BALLEW

# HANSON FINDS NO-HITTER INTEREST OVERWHELMING BUT ENJOYABLE

NEVER DID TOMMY HANSON (being mobbed, R) consider what the ramifications of throwing a no-hitter at Trustmark Park on June 25 might be.

"Right after the game, it was a pretty big deal, but I had no idea that I would be getting all of these phone calls and talking to so many different people about it," Hanson said of the biggest night of his career. "The day after, it was pretty crazy, and I was thinking, 'Maybe I should have given up a hit.' Nah, I'm just kidding."

The attention may have been overwhelming for the quiet, laid-back righthander, yet he admits it's a small price to pay for achieving a feat every pitcher dreams of accomplishing. In his ninth start since joining the Mississippi Braves, Hanson held the Birmingham Barons hitless for nine innings while striking out a career-best 14 to lead Atlanta's Double-A affiliate to a 6-0 victory.

"I walked a couple of guys and hit a guy in the first inning, but from then on, I felt fine," Hanson said. "For my last six or seven starts, the first inning had been kind of rough for me. I was coming out of the 'pen too pumped up. I needed to calm down and get settled in, and that was the case the night I threw the no-hitter. I was throwing everything high early on."

Hanson worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the first inning and hit another batter to lead off the second inning before retiring 18 straight Barons. He struck out the side in the second, fifth and eighth innings. The final three outs were flyballs to centerfielder Jordan Schafer, thrilling the standing crowd of 2,363 fans at Trustmark Park.

The 6-6, 210-pound Hanson recalls throwing two no-hitters during his Little League days, yet never achieved the feat in high school, junior college or his first two seasons of pro ball. He came close last year at Class-A Rome, on June 5, when he struck out 12 but allowed a home run in the seventh inning against Columbus and departed with a loss. A year and nearly three weeks later, he accomplished a feat for Mississippi that is unmatched in franchise annals.

"It's an awesome feeling, but I'm trying not to look back on it too much," said Hanson, a 22nd-round draft pick in 2006 from Redlands, Calif. "I have to focus on my next start and not get carried away with one outing. At the same time, it's started to sink in about the odds of something like that happening and how crazy everything regarding it has been. They hit a couple of balls hard that were right at guys. But it's definitely something that's pretty cool to have under my belt."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## MISSISSIPPI BRAVES 6
## BIRMINGHAM BARONS 0

JUNE 25, 2008,
AT TRUSTMARK PARK (PEARL, MISS.)

**BIRMINGHAM 1ST**
Negron walked. With Mercedes batting, Negron stole second. Mercedes struck out swinging. With Colina batting, Negron advanced to third on a wild pitch. Colina struck out swinging. Armstrong was hit by pitch. Nanita walked, and Armstrong advanced to second. Gartrell popped out to the catcher.
**(0 Runs, 0 Hits, 0 Errors, 3 LOB)**

**BIRMINGHAM 2ND**
**(Barons 0, Braves 0)**
Hudson hit by pitch. With San Pedro batting, Hudson advanced to second on a passed ball. San Pedro struck out swinging. Valido struck out swinging. Negron struck out looking.
**(0 Runs, 0 Hits, 0 Errors, 1 LOB)**

**BIRMINGHAM 3RD**
**(Braves 2, Barons 0)**
Mercedes flied out to left field. Colina struck out swinging. Armstrong grounded out to first base.
**(0 Runs, 0 Hits, 0 Errors, 0 LOB)**

**BIRMINGHAM 4TH**
**(Braves 6, Barons 0)**
Nanita grounded out to second. Gartrell struck out swinging. Hudson grounded out to shortstop.
**(0 Runs, 0 Hits, 0 Errors, 0 LOB)**

**BIRMINGHAM 5TH**
**(Braves 6, Barons 0)**
San Pedro struck out swinging. Valido struck out swinging. Negron struck out looking.
**(0 Runs, 0 Hits, 0 Errors, 0 LOB)**

**BIRMINGHAM 6TH**
**(Braves 6, Barons 0)**
Mercedes struck out swinging. Colina grounded out to shortstop. Armstrong grounded out to first base.
**(0 Runs, 0 Hits, 0 Errors, 0 LOB)**

**BIRMINGHAM 7TH**
**(Braves 6, Barons 0)**
Davis entered in right field, and Schafer moved from right to center, replacing Kotsay. Nanita flied out to right. Gartrell grounded out to the pitcher. Hudson grounded out to shortstop.
**(0 Runs, 0 Hits, 0 Errors, 0 LOB)**

**BIRMINGHAM 8TH**
**(Braves 6, Barons 0)**
San Pedro struck out swinging. Valido struck out swinging. Negron walked. With Mercedes batting, Negron advanced to second on defensive indifference. Mercedes struck out swinging.
**(0 Runs, 0 Hits, 0 Errors, 1 LOB)**

**BIRMINGHAM 9TH**
**(Braves 6, Barons 0)**
Colina flied out to center. Armstrong flied out to center. Nanita lined out to center.
**(0 Runs, 0 Hits, 0 Errors, 0 LOB)**

MISSISSIPPI BRAVES

## BOX SCORE

| MISSISSIPPI | AB | R | H | RBI | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J.C. Holt, 2B | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Matt Young, LF | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mark Kotsay, CF | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Quentin Davis, RF | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reid Gorecki, DH | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Greg Creek, 3B | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Kala Ka'aihue, 1B | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Jordan Schafer, RF-CF | 4 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| Paul Bennett, SS | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Jose Camarena, C | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Tommy Hanson, P | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **TOTALS** | **34** | **6** | **10** | **6** | **2** | **4** |

**3B:** Schafer (2).
**LOB:** Mississippi: 7.
**PB:** Camarena (8).

| BIRMINGHAM | AB | R | H | RBI | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miguel Negron, CF | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Victor Mercedes, 3B | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Javier Colina, 1B | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Cole Armstrong, C | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ricardo Nanita, LF | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Stefan Gartrell, RF | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Robert Hudson, 2B | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Erick San Pedro, DH | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Robert Valido, SS | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Dewon Day, P | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ryan O'Malley, P | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ryan Rote, P | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **TOTALS** | **27** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **3** | **14** |

**SB:** Negron (14).
**LOB:** Birmingham: 5

| BIRMINGHAM | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Day (L, 0-2) | 2.1 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| O'Malley | 4.2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Rote | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

| MISSISSIPPI | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hanson (W, 4-3) | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 14 |

**WP:** Hanson.
**HBP:** Creek (by O'Malley), Armstrong (by Hanson), Hudson (by Hanson).
**Umpires:** HP: Gerard Ascani; 1B: Toby Basner; 3B: Craig Barron.
**Time:** 2:25
**Attendance:** 2,362.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Hanson, who worked with catcher Jose Camarena, realized throughout the game that he had not allowed a hit, particularly once he returned to the dugout after the top of the fourth inning. That's when he started to feel he was in a groove, with his slider proving most difficult for the Birmingham batters. As a result, Hanson continued with his game plan of attacking hitters by throwing first-pitch strikes and trying to force contact.

Initially, the M-Braves congratulated Hanson after every inning. By the middle of the game, however, he would have received more attention if he had a highly contagious disease.

"They were all telling me good job during the game, but toward the end, everyone stopped saying anything," Hanson said. "Guys wouldn't even look at me. It was pretty funny how superstitious everyone was."

"He knew what was going on, and he was able to channel that pressure internally while not worrying about any of the external stuff," said Mississippi manager Phillip Wellman. "He sat there in the corner of the dugout without anyone saying a word to him, but he knew exactly what he needed to do to accomplish his goal. When you see a guy execute like that, it's what makes this game so great."

## INTERNATIONAL SIGNEES

**THE BRAVES** were among the most aggressive teams when the international signing period began July 2. Under international scouting director Johnny Almaraz, Atlanta signed its top two targets and seven other players who come from five different countries.

Less than a day after the signing period began, Atlanta signed a pair of high-profile 16-year-olds in Dominican lefthander Carlos Perez and Colombian switch-hitting centerfielder Hector Garcia.

The Braves' bounty also included righthanders Eduardo Castillo and Rafael Nin and shortstop Fernando De Los Santos from the Dominican Republic, righthander Ernesto Silva from Panama, righthander Pedro Herrera from Mexico, and righthander Way Huang and catcher Mon Tsai from Taiwan.

"We worked very hard going after the kids we really wanted," Almaraz said. "We worked for more than two years on a couple of the players, trying to make certain these were kids with good makeup. We're still negotiating with a couple of others, but we're extremely pleased with the ones we have already signed."

The Braves made Perez their primary target after he displayed the ability to throw three above-average pitches, headed by a "plus" breaking ball. The southpaw also impressed the Atlanta scouts with his poise and potential to compete in the United States in the near future.

"Carlos is a number-one pick type of talent," Almaraz said. "We feel he has the ability to be an impact pitcher at the major league level. He can already pitch at an advanced level, and he could accelerate through our system."

Similar comments could be made about Garcia, whom the Braves deemed the top international athlete available. The 6-foot-2, 200-pound Garcia is a potential five-tool talent. He has advanced power for his age, along with the impressive combination of excellent arm strength and foot speed.

De Los Santos is a 17-year-old who makes all of the routine plays and has a chance to be an offensive middle infielder. Tsai, also 17 who stands 6-foot-1 and weighs 195 pounds, has impressive catch-and-throw skills with some budding power.

Castillo has three pitches with excellent arm action and a fastball in the 90-92 mph range. Fellow Dominican Nin has a power slider that he throws from a three-quarters delivery, along with a hard curveball and a 90-93 mph fastball. Silva, a 6-foot-3, 170-pound Panamanian, shows a loose arm and possesses a "plus" breaking ball and a good feel for the changeup. Herrera, a 16-year-old Mexican, also has a good breaking pitch and the ability to throw three pitches for strikes. Huang, 17, throws a fastball in the 88-91 mph range with a hard sinker and curveball.

### ORGANIZATIONAL

**JONATHAN SCHUERHOLZ** retired as a player in the Atlanta farm system last August in order to complete work on his master's degree in business at Auburn University. Despite the added education, the son of Braves president John Schuerholz decided that baseball is still in his blood.

Schuerholz accepted the organization's offer to become a roving infield instructor in early July.

As an infielder, Schuerholz helped Rome to the South Atlantic League crown in 2003 when he was a teammate of Jeff Francoeur, Brian McCann Blaine Boyer and at least three other players that played in the major leagues...

The Braves signed their first two draft picks, lefthanders **Brett DeVall** and **Tyler Stovall**, during the first full week of July. Atlanta has signed 17 players drafted in June, including nine of its first 10 picks. The lone exception in the first 10 rounds is fifth-rounder **Jacob Thompson**, a righthander from the University of Virginia. Thompson was projected to be taken in the first round prior to experiencing a disappointing junior season.

### RICHMOND
TRIPLE A

**FIRST BASEMAN Scott Thorman** was named to the Canadian team for the Olympic Games that will be held in China during August. Thorman, who spent all of the 2007 season with Atlanta, led Richmond with 15 homers and 48 RBIs through the major league All-Star break. He's struggled with consistency, leading to a .241 batting average, including a team-high 74 strikeouts versus only 15 walks...

First baseman/designated hitter **Barbaro Canizares** was the lone Richmond representative at the Triple-A All-Star Game in Louisville. A former member of the Cuban national team, Canizares has been in the IL's top 10 in hitting for much of the season and entered the mid-season exhibition with a team-best .295 average along with 10 home runs and 44 RBIs...

Outfielder **Carl Loadenthal** has given the Richmond lineup some spark since being promoted from Mississippi on June 11. Loadenthal, who missed more than a month earlier this season with an oblique strain and a bruised hip after colliding with an outfield wall, entered the break with a .323 batting average, including a nine-game hitting streak from June 30-July 10 in which he went 14-for-31 (.452). Despite playing in only 29 games, Loadenthal was tied for third on the club with nine stolen bases...

The Braves signed former Baltimore closer **Jorge Julio** as a free agent on June 13 after he was released by Cleveland. Julio has pitched for six different major league clubs from 2001-08. To make room for Julio, Richmond released veteran outfielder **Reggie Taylor**, who was hitting .243 in 53 games...

The Braves traded catcher **Sal Fasano** to Cleveland on June 19 and signed former major league reliever **Jason Phillips** off the Camden roster in the independent Atlantic League on June 27. Fasano threw out 15 of 27 would-be basestealers at Richmond this year...

**Mark Jurich** was released by the organization on July 3 after hitting .229 in 30 games... Righthander **Chris Resop**, who was 2-0 with a 1.50 ERA in nine games at Richmond after being designated for assignment by Atlanta in early June, had his contract purchased by Japan's Hanshin Tigers on July 9...

Injuries have hurt the Richmond relief corps. **Phil Stockman** has not pitched since being sent down from Atlanta on June 20 and was placed on the disabled list with a strained left hamstring. **Zach Schreiber**, who had a 2.97 ERA and six saves, will miss the rest of the season with a partially torn ligament in his elbow and may undergo elbow surgery... The injuries led to utilityman **Derrick Arnold** making four relief appearances.

## MISSISSIPPI
DOUBLE A

**THREE M-BRAVES** - righthander **Todd Redmond**, closer **Luis Valdez** and outfielder **Matt Young** - were named to the Southern Division squad for the Southern League All-Star Game. Redmond has emerged as the team's number-one starter since his arrival from the Pirates organization in a pre-season trade. He went 8-4 with a 3.57 ERA in his first 19 games, thanks largely to pinpoint control, as evidenced by 19 walks in his first 116 innings. The righty is not overpowering, but mixes a 90-mph fastball, solid curve and improving changeup well...

Young has played all three outfield positions, as well as a handful of games at second base while hitting .282 with 19 steals. He also has performed well off the bench (5-for-6 as a pinch-hitter)...

Valdez has 15 saves in 20 chances and worked 27 1/3 consecutive innings without allowing an earned run, from April 18-June 22...

After making 19 appearances out of the bullpen, **Kris Medlen** moved to the rotation on June 5 and responded by going 2-1 with a 2.30 ERA in his first eight starts. He struck out a career-high 10 over seven innings in a no-decision during a 4-3 victory over Chattanooga on July 7. Medlen is one of the organization's most aggressive pitchers who challenges hitters with his low 90s fastball and a sharp breaking ball...

Third baseman **Van Pope** put together a season-high eight-game hitting streak from July 3-10...

The M-Braves turned the first triple play in franchise history during an 11-9 loss to Chattanooga on July 6.

## MYRTLE BEACH
ADVANCED A

### TOP 10 CHOPTALK PROSPECTS

1. **Jason Heyward**, 19, OF, Rome. First draft pick in 2007 has all the tools.
2. **Tommy Hanson**, 21, RHP, Mississippi. With four pitches, could be major league work horse.
3. **Freddie Freeman**, 18, 1B, Rome. Youngest player in 2007 draft is one of organization's purest hitters.
4. **Jordan Schafer**, 21, OF, Mississippi. All-around center fielder is making adjustments at Double-A.
5. **Jeff Locke**, 20, LHP, Rome. Keeps getting better with every outing.
6. **Tyler Flowers**, 22, C, Myrtle Beach. Power plus ever-improving skills behind the plate could put him on the fast track.
7. **Brandon Jones**, 24, OF, Richmond. Displayed hard-hitting ability during promotion to Atlanta.
8. **Gorkys Hernandez**, 20, OF, Myrtle Beach. Organization's lone representative in the Futures All-Star Game at Yankee Stadium.
9. **Cody Johnson**, 19, OF, Rome. One of the premier power hitters in the minors.
10. **Kris Medlen**, 22, RHP, Mississippi. Could be blowing away major league hitters before long.

**RANDY GRESS** must like debuts. In his first game playing for the Pelicans, on July 7, he went 2-for-2 with a home run and made two outstanding defensive plays at first base, even though he is normally a middle infielder. The homer was only the second of his short career, with the other one coming in his first professional at-bat. Gress, who was promoted several days earlier from Danville, worked extensively with roving hitting instructor **Leon Roberts** and posted a .462 batting average in his last 10 games in the Appalachian League...

**Jon Mark Owings** and **Brandon Hicks** missed more than a week in early July due to injuries. Owings was given rest for an oblique strain while Hicks had an ailing hand. Both returned to action on July 9, though Hicks was hit on the hand with a pitch...

**Cody Gearrin** is piling up strikeouts. After striking out 36 in 22 1/3 innings at Rome, the sidearming righthander out of Mercer University struck out the side in the seventh inning during his debut with Myrtle Beach on July 9. Gearrin mixes a 92-93 mph fastball with a sharp curveball and a hard, nasty slider. Gearrin is making progress as one of the Braves' top relief prospects...

**Tyler Flowers** is showing the impressive power he displayed in big league camp in March. Flowers hit his 10th home run of the season on July 9, a game-winning grand slam in the bottom of the eighth during a 7-5 win over Salem. That was part of a seven-game hitting streak in which Flowers went 10-for-23 (.435) with two homers and eight RBIs. After batting .260 for the season's first two months, Flowers hit .294 with six homers and 28 RBIs in 33 games from June 1-July 12, including a seven-RBI effort versus Lynchburg June 20...

Six Pelicans contributed to the Carolina League's 3-1 victory over the California League in the annual all-star game, played at BB&T Coastal Field on June 24. Myrtle Beach shortstop **Brandon Hicks** had an RBI single in the eighth inning to help give the home team the win. Other highlights included **Kyle Cofield** pitching a perfect top of the seventh inning and closer **Bryan Dumesnil** retiring the only two batters he faced in the ninth. The game attracted a crowd of 6,599 to the Myrtle Beach ballpark, the largest gathering in the facility's 10-year history...

First baseman **Ernesto Mejia** won the home run derby at the all-star game. Mejia hit a total of 11 homers, including three in the final round. Hicks finished second to Mejia on the Carolina League squad with nine home runs.

## ROME
CLASS A

**JASON HEYWARD** and **Freddie Freeman** represented Rome in the South Atlantic League All-Star Game in Greensboro, N.C., on June 17. Heyward started in right field for the South and went 2-for-3 with a solo home run. Freeman took over the first base duties during the game and stroked an RBI single in his lone at-bat...

Freeman continues to show why the Braves considered him to be one of the purest hitters in the 2007 draft. He hit in 12 straight games through July 12, going 21-for-48 with three homers and 13 RBIs. Freeman was second in the 16-team SAL with 67 RBIs, 44 extra-base hits and 107 hits, while ranking fourth with a .307 average and 25 doubles...

Heyward overcame a mild slump in late June and is once again blistering the ball. Through July 12, he ranked fourth in the league in batting average (.329), on-base percentage (.396), hits (105) and runs (61)...

After missing all of last season due to arm surgery, **Erik Cordier** finally began his Braves career by working three games in the Gulf Coast League before being promoted to Rome and starting July 8. Cordier, who was acquired from Kansas City in March 2007 in exchange for shortstop **Tony Pena Jr.**, allowed one unearned run and three hits while posting three walks and two strikeouts...

**Cody Johnson** is making the necessary adjustments at the plate after opening the season on a record-setting pace for the SAL single-season strikeout record. Johnson had a .217 batting average at the end of May, yet rebounded to hit .280 with eight homers and 28 RBIs in his next 36 games, through July 13. Even though he has 128 strikeouts in 325 at-bats, he has concentrated on shortening his swing, realizing that he still generates enough power to clear the fence in any ballpark...

**Jeff Locke**, Atlanta's second-round pick in 2006, has blossomed since starting the season with a 1-7 record. In his first three starts in July, the lefthander was 2-1 with a 1.71 ERA, with opposing hitters posting only a .187 batting average against him. On July 7, Locke threw seven shutout innings in a victory over Greensboro, allowing three hits and no walks while striking out six.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 47

DOWN ON THE FARM

JON MARK OWINGS

# THIS IS A CRITICAL YEAR FOR MY DEVELOPMENT

**ONE THING I'VE LEARNED** since I signed with the Braves is what a mental grind the baseball season can be. That's why I prepare myself mentally every day to go out and help the team. The big thing for me is staying healthy. This is the first season I've been able to do that, and things have gone as well as I could have hoped. I feel like I'm having a pretty good year.

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Jon Mark Owings is a 6-4, 195-pound outfielder from Gainesville, Ga. He was a 17th-round draft pick in 2004 who is in his fifth pro season. Last year at Rome, he hit 16 home runs (403 at-bats), fifth-best in the Atlanta farm system. He had 13 homers in his first 267 at-bats at Myrtle Beach this year.

I trained a lot harder last winter, heading into this season. I knew this season was going to be a big year for me. I worked out hard with my brothers. My oldest brother is a personal trainer, and most people know my other brother is Micah Owings (pitcher for the Arizona Diamondbacks). We worked out together every day. I also hit a lot with Tyler Flowers, who is my roommate on the road this season. We've known each other for quite a while and get along great.

Micah and I talk just about every day. He's three hours behind us, but I try to stay up late so we can either talk or text each other about what happened that day. We're not only brothers, but we're also best friends. We talk hitting, we talk pitching, we talk about our approach at the plate.

Of course, he's always been my big brother, but he's also someone I really respect as a baseball player. He's one of the most humble guys I've ever been around, and you would never know he's a major league baseball player if you were around him. Talking with him has been a big help to me, particularly on the field, throughout my life.

> "I KNOW IT'S MORE THAN A MONTH AWAY, BUT THE GUYS ON THIS TEAM CAN'T WAIT FOR THE PLAYOFFS TO BEGIN."

A great part of this season has been playing on this Myrtle Beach team. We have a great group of guys, and there's a lot of chemistry on and off the field. We like being around each other. If we're not in the clubhouse or on the field, we're hanging out away from the ballpark, as well.

It's also one of the best teams I've ever played on. One through nine, we're very strong. If one guy isn't swinging the bat well on a particular night, another guy will pick him up. We all count on one another. Plus, there aren't any big egos on this team, which is another reason we've pulled together so well.

Playing for our manager, Rocket Wheeler, is also an awesome experience. He is an incredible manager, a guy who knows the game upside and down. I really respect him. He's not only a great leader, he's also a great person. To play for a man like that, much like I did with Randy Ingle in Rome, Paul Runge in Danville and many other people, is a big reason the Braves and their players have been able to have a lot of success.

I know it's more than a month away, but the guys on this team can't wait for the playoffs to begin. By winning the first half (of the Carolina League's Southern Division), we're just going out and playing as hard as we can, all the while knowing the big prize awaits. A bunch of the guys on this team were with Danville not too long ago when we won the Appalachian League. We've been talking a lot about how great it would be to win another ring. Those opportunities don't come around often.

Several people mentioned to me prior to this season about how important it would be in terms of my development. To be honest, I didn't put any pressure on myself. My approach is to show up at the field and do what I believe will make me a better player today and in the future.

# FARM STATISTICS

## RICHMOND 42-55

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE TRIPLE A | THE DIAMOND (804) 359-4444

| BATTER | AVG | G | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anderson, Josh (OF) | .287 | 81 | 324 | 45 | 93 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 23 | 20 | 41 | 22 |
| Arnold, Derrick (INF) | .234 | 40 | 124 | 8 | 29 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 27 | 3 |
| Borchard, Joe (OF) | .274 | 33 | 117 | 16 | 32 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 29 | 3 |
| Canizares, Barbaro (1B) | .295 | 91 | 329 | 38 | 97 | 17 | 0 | 10 | 44 | 27 | 50 | 1 |
| Cruz, Enrique (3B/2B) | .197 | 40 | 132 | 7 | 26 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 8 | 34 | 0 |
| Hernandez, Diory (INF) | .295 | 76 | 285 | 31 | 84 | 15 | 0 | 5 | 33 | 15 | 48 | 1 |
| Holt, J.C. (2B) | .215 | 26 | 79 | 11 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 7 |
| Jones, Brandon (OF) | .262 | 62 | 221 | 31 | 58 | 19 | 0 | 3 | 33 | 27 | 54 | 5 |
| Jurich, Mark (OF) | .229 | 30 | 109 | 13 | 25 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 24 | 0 |
| Lillibridge, Brent (SS) | .212 | 55 | 212 | 23 | 45 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 17 | 55 | 15 |
| Loadenthal, Carl (OF) | .323 | 29 | 93 | 10 | 30 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 19 | 9 |
| Perry, Jason (OF) | .302 | 31 | 106 | 16 | 32 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 12 | 27 | 2 |
| Sammons, Clint (C) | .238 | 72 | 248 | 21 | 59 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 18 | 49 | 5 |
| Taylor, Reggie (OF) | .248 | 53 | 153 | 17 | 38 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 28 | 5 |
| Thorman, Scott (1B/3B) | .241 | 84 | 320 | 35 | 77 | 17 | 1 | 15 | 48 | 15 | 74 | 2 |
| Timmons, Wes (INF) | .244 | 62 | 193 | 30 | 47 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 35 | 20 | 9 |

| PITCHER | W-L | ERA | G | GS | SV | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | OBA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basner, Ryan | 1-1 | 6.00 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 33.0 | 34 | 22 | 22 | 12 | 23 | .266 |
| Bueno, Francisley | 2-4 | 4.73 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 66.2 | 74 | 37 | 35 | 21 | 47 | .282 |
| DeSalvo, Matt | 2-8 | 4.76 | 25 | 4 | 0 | 64.1 | 67 | 41 | 34 | 40 | 62 | .275 |
| Gamble, Jerome | 0-5 | 7.76 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 29.0 | 34 | 26 | 25 | 11 | 20 | .291 |
| James, Chuck | 4-4 | 2.48 | 12 | 11 | 0 | 65.1 | 53 | 24 | 18 | 30 | 60 | .221 |
| Julio, Jorge | 0-1 | 1.72 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 15.2 | 18 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 17 | .290 |
| Lawrence, Brian | 1-3 | 5.92 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 38.0 | 48 | 27 | 25 | 12 | 18 | .308 |
| Morton, Charlie | 5-2 | 2.05 | 13 | 12 | 0 | 79.0 | 51 | 20 | 18 | 27 | 72 | .181 |
| Moss, Damian | 3-8 | 4.92 | 22 | 14 | 0 | 67.2 | 88 | 49 | 37 | 46 | 55 | .324 |
| Nelson, Brad | 1-3 | 11.49 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 15.2 | 32 | 23 | 20 | 6 | 10 | .421 |
| Ridgway, Jeff | 3-0 | 5.52 | 38 | 0 | 4 | 44.0 | 60 | 33 | 27 | 17 | 48 | .324 |
| Rouwenhorst, Jonathon | 7-9 | 5.78 | 25 | 14 | 1 | 85.2 | 110 | 61 | 55 | 35 | 49 | .330 |
| Schreiber, Zach | 2-2 | 2.97 | 34 | 0 | 6 | 39.1 | 29 | 13 | 13 | 26 | 29 | .209 |
| Shibilo, Andy | 1-1 | 6.15 | 31 | 0 | 1 | 41.0 | 52 | 29 | 28 | 28 | 39 | .311 |
| Stockman, Phil | 1-0 | 0.77 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 23.1 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 19 | .107 |
| Williamson, Scott | 2-1 | 6.61 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 16.1 | 18 | 12 | 12 | 5 | 20 | .277 |

## MISSISSIPPI 46-49

SOUTHERN LEAGUE AA | TRUSTMARK PARK (601) 664-7600

| BATTER | AVG | G | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bennett, Paul (INF) | .188 | 41 | 112 | 10 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 8 | 30 | 1 |
| Boscan, J.C. (C) | .195 | 52 | 169 | 17 | 33 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 20 | 40 | 0 |
| Camarena, Jose (C) | .197 | 44 | 152 | 12 | 30 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 11 | 36 | 1 |
| Creek, Greg (1B/3B) | .279 | 84 | 269 | 41 | 75 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 40 | 32 | 53 | 0 |
| Davis, Quentin (OF) | .181 | 62 | 149 | 12 | 27 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 16 | 6 | 38 | 6 |
| Gorecki, Reid (OF) | .328 | 32 | 128 | 23 | 42 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 24 | 10 | 25 | 7 |
| Guzman, Javier (SS) | .223 | 80 | 282 | 35 | 63 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 16 | 34 | 5 |
| Hernandez, Diory (INF) | .286 | 22 | 77 | 8 | 22 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| Holt, J.C. (2B) | .279 | 56 | 233 | 34 | 65 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 25 | 27 | 43 | 15 |
| Jurich, Mark (OF) | .219 | 46 | 137 | 14 | 30 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 15 | 39 | 0 |
| Kaaihue, Kala (1B) | .255 | 87 | 263 | 45 | 67 | 17 | 1 | 10 | 45 | 57 | 86 | 0 |
| Loadenthal, Carl (OF) | .227 | 26 | 97 | 8 | 22 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 20 | 4 |
| Perry, Jason (OF) | .314 | 38 | 137 | 34 | 43 | 11 | 2 | 13 | 41 | 23 | 44 | 1 |
| Pope, Van (3B) | .257 | 57 | 210 | 27 | 54 | 14 | 1 | 3 | 35 | 17 | 32 | 6 |
| Schafer, Jordan (OF) | .234 | 40 | 145 | 22 | 34 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 24 | 30 | 44 | 5 |
| Young, Matt (OF) | .282 | 92 | 330 | 51 | 93 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 33 | 45 | 45 | 19 |

| PITCHER | W-L | ERA | G | GS | SV | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | OBA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basner, Ryan | 2-0 | 5.56 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 22.2 | 26 | 18 | 14 | 10 | 14 | .289 |
| Cuevas, Jairo | 0-2 | 7.50 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 12.0 | 21 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 8 | .382 |
| Gamble, Jerome | 1-5 | 4.83 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 50.1 | 46 | 28 | 27 | 19 | 30 | .245 |
| Gunderson, Kevin | 1-2 | 4.55 | 21 | 0 | 3 | 27.2 | 32 | 14 | 14 | 9 | 9 | .317 |
| Hanson, Thomas | 4-3 | 4.34 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 58.0 | 47 | 31 | 28 | 24 | 55 | .218 |
| Heath, Deunte | 1-4 | 6.66 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 25.2 | 32 | 27 | 19 | 15 | 13 | .294 |
| Jung, Sung Ki | 2-2 | 5.35 | 32 | 0 | 5 | 38.2 | 41 | 26 | 23 | 17 | 36 | .266 |
| Medlen, Kris | 3-4 | 3.30 | 27 | 8 | 1 | 73.2 | 67 | 27 | 27 | 15 | 73 | .248 |
| Nelson, Brad | 1-0 | 3.76 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 38.1 | 44 | 23 | 16 | 10 | 23 | .288 |
| Nix, Michael | 4-3 | 5.82 | 31 | 0 | 1 | 43.1 | 43 | 35 | 28 | 33 | 34 | .259 |
| Parr, James | 8-4 | 3.69 | 18 | 17 | 0 | 95.0 | 87 | 40 | 39 | 37 | 81 | .246 |
| Payano, Nelson | 3-2 | 3.95 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 43.1 | 41 | 22 | 19 | 22 | 36 | .253 |
| Redmond, Todd | 8-4 | 3.57 | 19 | 19 | 0 | 116.0 | 121 | 52 | 46 | 19 | 91 | .268 |
| Sencion, Carlos | 3-1 | 3.05 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 41.1 | 32 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 36 | .213 |
| Smith, Dan | 1-7 | 6.16 | 14 | 12 | 0 | 61.1 | 81 | 45 | 42 | 34 | 47 | .328 |
| Valdez, Luis | 3-1 | 2.86 | 37 | 0 | 15 | 44.0 | 34 | 23 | 14 | 26 | 52 | .211 |

## MYRTLE BEACH 58-33

CAROLINA LEAGUE ADVANCED A | COASTAL FEDERAL FIELD (843) 918-6002

| BATTER | AVG | G | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arnold, Derrick (SS/3B) | .290 | 9 | 31 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| Bennett, Paul (INF) | .189 | 12 | 37 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 1 |
| Britton, Phillip (C) | .223 | 56 | 202 | 23 | 45 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 5 | 31 | 4 |
| Cabrera, Willie (OF) | .287 | 84 | 341 | 58 | 98 | 25 | 3 | 8 | 50 | 22 | 34 | 5 |
| Campbell, Eric (3B) | .242 | 42 | 165 | 24 | 40 | 7 | 0 | 11 | 41 | 15 | 20 | 1 |
| Flowers, Tyler (C) | .273 | 84 | 286 | 48 | 78 | 17 | 0 | 11 | 56 | 67 | 67 | 5 |
| Hernandez, Gorkys (OF) | .279 | 54 | 229 | 38 | 64 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 24 | 21 | 39 | 11 |
| Hicks, Brandon (SS) | .251 | 72 | 271 | 55 | 68 | 21 | 2 | 15 | 47 | 37 | 98 | 12 |
| Jones, Travis (2B) | .257 | 84 | 315 | 57 | 81 | 18 | 3 | 14 | 51 | 43 | 77 | 11 |
| Lundahl, Chad (INF) | .255 | 15 | 47 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| Marcial, Robert (INF) | .323 | 35 | 96 | 12 | 31 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 8 | 19 | 2 |
| Mejia, Ernesto (1B) | .267 | 85 | 345 | 60 | 92 | 30 | 4 | 12 | 50 | 14 | 89 | 2 |
| Owings, Jon (OF) | .292 | 77 | 267 | 42 | 78 | 19 | 2 | 13 | 47 | 20 | 61 | 8 |
| Powell, Brandon (3B) | .225 | 33 | 120 | 16 | 27 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 31 | 4 |
| Rodriguez, Concepcion (OF) | .290 | 63 | 217 | 32 | 63 | 14 | 2 | 6 | 36 | 18 | 32 | 5 |
| Silva, Yohan (OF) | .211 | 31 | 95 | 20 | 20 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 22 | 2 |

| PITCHER | W-L | ERA | G | GS | SV | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | OBA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Broadway, Michael | 0-2 | 4.50 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 18.0 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 13 | .176 |
| Butts, Brett | 3-3 | 2.96 | 26 | 0 | 9 | 51.2 | 38 | 21 | 17 | 16 | 45 | .201 |
| Cofield, Kyle | 6-6 | 3.81 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 89.2 | 95 | 50 | 38 | 57 | 60 | .280 |
| Diamond, Scott | 7-1 | 3.09 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 55.1 | 55 | 23 | 19 | 12 | 46 | .255 |
| Fellman, Nicholas | 3-3 | 4.42 | 28 | 0 | 2 | 38.2 | 39 | 21 | 19 | 13 | 36 | .265 |
| Gunderson, Kevin | 1-0 | 1.04 | 15 | 0 | 10 | 17.1 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 20 | .197 |
| Hanson, Thomas | 3-1 | 0.90 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 40.0 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 49 | .116 |
| Heath, Deunte | 9-2 | 3.11 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 84.0 | 78 | 40 | 29 | 41 | 53 | .247 |
| Lopez, Gonzalo | 2-3 | 6.32 | 16 | 9 | 0 | 47.0 | 48 | 35 | 33 | 26 | 47 | .265 |
| Lyman, Jeffrey | 2-2 | 3.10 | 24 | 3 | 0 | 58.0 | 43 | 23 | 20 | 29 | 53 | .206 |
| Reynoso, Ryne | 7-6 | 3.62 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 92.0 | 87 | 45 | 37 | 22 | 77 | .251 |
| Rivas, Carlos | 3-1 | 4.28 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 27.1 | 23 | 19 | 13 | 20 | 22 | .219 |
| Tejeda, Ferdin | 2-1 | 2.36 | 22 | 0 | 3 | 34.1 | 27 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 23 | .216 |
| Villa, Kelvin | 2-1 | 5.52 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 14.2 | 18 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 13 | .305 |
| Vines, Chris | 3-1 | 3.38 | 17 | 11 | 2 | 74.2 | 66 | 34 | 28 | 21 | 71 | .235 |
| Wilson, Tyler | 1-0 | 7.24 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 13.2 | 16 | 13 | 11 | 8 | 20 | .296 |

## ROME 32-60

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE CLASS A | STATE MUTUAL STADIUM (706) 368-9388

| BATTER | AVG | G | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Berres, David (OF) | .265 | 36 | 102 | 9 | 27 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 21 | 22 | 3 |
| Coe, Adam (3B/2B) | .232 | 69 | 254 | 22 | 59 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 22 | 11 | 64 | 2 |
| Dominguez, Javier (C) | .207 | 39 | 140 | 10 | 29 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 11 | 33 | 6 |
| Fisher, Michael (SS/2B) | .263 | 84 | 315 | 40 | 83 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 23 | 63 | 9 |
| Freeman, Frederick (1B) | .307 | 90 | 348 | 46 | 107 | 25 | 5 | 14 | 67 | 31 | 51 | 3 |
| Heyward, Jason (OF) | .329 | 84 | 319 | 61 | 105 | 17 | 3 | 8 | 43 | 38 | 55 | 14 |
| Johnson, Benji (C) | .223 | 49 | 179 | 19 | 40 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 34 | 2 |
| Johnson, Cody (OF) | .243 | 88 | 325 | 36 | 79 | 18 | 0 | 16 | 53 | 30 | 128 | 6 |
| Lee, Carlos (OF) | .227 | 64 | 233 | 22 | 53 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 14 | 58 | 9 |
| Lundahl, Chad (INF) | .246 | 33 | 118 | 9 | 29 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 20 | 0 |
| Miles, Cole (2B/OF) | .248 | 81 | 319 | 42 | 79 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 24 | 52 | 21 |
| Rodriguez, Concepcion (OF) | .267 | 19 | 60 | 8 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 16 | 1 |
| Shults, Stephen (OF) | .204 | 15 | 49 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| Silva, Yohan (OF) | .204 | 19 | 54 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 13 | 2 |
| Sime, Samuel (3B) | .210 | 47 | 167 | 18 | 35 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 3 | 35 | 10 |

| PITCHER | W-L | ERA | G | GS | SV | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | OBA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barrett, Eric | 1-7 | 5.55 | 18 | 14 | 0 | 71.1 | 70 | 54 | 44 | 61 | 77 | .249 |
| Beck, Casey | 0-3 | 5.24 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 22.1 | 26 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 22 | .292 |
| Broadway, Michael | 0-3 | 4.96 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 32.2 | 43 | 28 | 18 | 6 | 21 | .309 |
| Castro, Yeliar | 2-5 | 5.24 | 25 | 2 | 1 | 44.2 | 47 | 35 | 26 | 23 | 48 | .272 |
| Diamond, Scott | 3-1 | 3.08 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 52.2 | 47 | 20 | 18 | 11 | 38 | .240 |
| Evarts, Steve | 2-0 | 1.50 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 18.0 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 14 | .234 |
| Gearrin, Cory | 3-2 | 2.82 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 22.1 | 19 | 11 | 7 | 15 | 36 | .218 |
| Locke, Jeffrey | 4-8 | 3.75 | 19 | 18 | 0 | 108.0 | 112 | 55 | 45 | 29 | 85 | .262 |
| Mehlich, Michael | 0-1 | 2.18 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 20.2 | 16 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 20 | .208 |
| Ortegano, Jose | 2-4 | 4.18 | 15 | 14 | 0 | 79.2 | 82 | 42 | 37 | 22 | 78 | .272 |
| Osuna, Edgar | 3-4 | 3.71 | 21 | 6 | 5 | 70.1 | 67 | 30 | 29 | 16 | 84 | .251 |
| Palica, Thomas | 6-4 | 4.67 | 22 | 1 | 1 | 44.1 | 39 | 25 | 23 | 19 | 51 | .234 |
| Pruneda, Benino | 2-4 | 3.57 | 27 | 0 | 3 | 35.1 | 33 | 15 | 14 | 17 | 50 | .244 |
| Rivas, Carlos | 0-0 | 1.02 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 17.2 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 18 | .219 |
| Rodgers, Chad | 2-10 | 4.36 | 17 | 14 | 0 | 84.2 | 87 | 49 | 41 | 27 | 68 | .263 |
| Rohrbough, Cole | 1-3 | 6.54 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 31.2 | 36 | 26 | 23 | 17 | 39 | .279 |

## DANVILLE 16-10

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE
ROOKIE ADVANCED

LEGION FIELD
(434) 797-3792

| BATTER | AVG | G | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kennelly, Mathew (C) | .277 | 21 | 83 | 8 | 23 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 3 | 17 | 0 |
| Miles, Kuyaunnis (OF) | .220 | 15 | 50 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 1 |
| Moody, Shayne (SS) | .323 | 22 | 96 | 14 | 31 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 0 |
| Rodriguez, Gerardo (1B) | .292 | 23 | 89 | 16 | 26 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 26 | 7 | 27 | 0 |
| Shehan, Chris (OF) | .277 | 25 | 94 | 15 | 26 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 8 | 21 | 1 |
| Shults, Stephen (OF) | .375 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Sucre, Jesus (C) | .190 | 15 | 58 | 9 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| Ware, L.V. (OF) | .245 | 26 | 98 | 17 | 24 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 17 | 5 | 20 | 4 |
| White, Will (2B/OF) | .227 | 9 | 22 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 2 |

| PITCHER | W-L | ERA | G | GS | SV | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | OBA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bullard, Adam | 1-1 | 3.38 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8.0 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 7 | .273 |
| Clemens, Paul | 1-0 | 4.60 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 15.2 | 16 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 10 | .262 |
| Delgado, Randall | 1-3 | 2.00 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 27.0 | 21 | 11 | 6 | 17 | 32 | .226 |
| Francis, Ross | 1-1 | 2.53 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10.2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 13 | .167 |
| Himpsl, Derick | 0-1 | 5.19 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 8.2 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 15 | .306 |
| Hodges,Casey | 3-1 | 0.60 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 30.0 | 20 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 25 | .187 |
| Kimbrel, Craig | 0-0 | 0.00 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 11.1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 14 | .026 |
| Ladd, Timothy | 0-0 | 5.06 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 10.2 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 8 | .256 |
| McMillan, Clayton | 0-0 | 2.16 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 8.1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | .265 |
| Paulino, Angelo | 1-1 | 5.12 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 19.1 | 24 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 21 | .304 |
| Railsback, Cody | 2-0 | 3.21 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 14.0 | 19 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 17 | .306 |
| Rojas, Junior | 2-0 | 1.59 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5.2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | .150 |
| Small, Matthew | 0-1 | 2.61 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 10.1 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 14 | .225 |
| Sullivan, Richard | 2-0 | 1.40 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 19.1 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 22 | .149 |
| Teheran, Julio | 1-0 | 3.86 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7.0 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | .320 |
| Timms, Matt | 1-1 | 2.57 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 7.0 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 12 | .269 |

## GULF COAST 9-11

GULF COAST LEAGUE
ROOKIE

CHAMPION STADIUM AT DISNEY
(407) 939-2301

| BATTER | AVG | G | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adair, Travis (SS) | .269 | 19 | 78 | 9 | 21 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 6 |
| Barnett, Tyler (2B) | .086 | 11 | 35 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 1 |
| Brooks, Robert (2B) | .355 | 13 | 31 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Culver, Calvin (OF) | .275 | 20 | 80 | 11 | 22 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 2 |
| Elorriaga-Matra, Daniel (C) | .350 | 17 | 60 | 11 | 21 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| Feliz, Anthony (OF) | .295 | 16 | 44 | 3 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Hanson, Jake (3B) | .269 | 19 | 67 | 10 | 18 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 21 | 1 |
| Hiller, Layton (OF) | .204 | 15 | 49 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Maddox, Chadwick (OF) | .260 | 15 | 50 | 6 | 13 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 1 |
| Marval, Osman (C) | .278 | 11 | 18 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Parra, Camilo (OF) | .250 | 16 | 48 | 9 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 2 |
| Redden, Ray (2B/C) | .000 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Schlehuber, Braeden (C) | .195 | 14 | 41 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| Shimabukuro, Ryohei (1B) | .200 | 18 | 55 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Voelkel, Ryan (1B) | .333 | 10 | 21 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 0 |

| PITCHER | W-L | ERA | G | GS | SV | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | OBA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avilan, Luis | 0-0 | 3.00 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 15.0 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 19 | .204 |
| Bush, Paul | 0-1 | 2.16 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 8.1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | .161 |
| Cordier, Erik | 0-0 | 0.00 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5.0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | .211 |
| Cuevas, Jairo | 1-0 | 2.00 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 9.0 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | .226 |
| Delgado, Dimaster | 2-0 | 4.05 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13.1 | 15 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 15 | .268 |
| Farrell, Kyle | 0-1 | 5.40 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 11.2 | 15 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 8 | .306 |
| Hampton, Mike | 0-0 | 0.00 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5.2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | .182 |
| Hung, Chen-En | 1-1 | 2.45 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 11.0 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 14 | .171 |
| Hyde, Lee | 0-1 | 5.06 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5.1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | .190 |
| Lagua, Eligio | 0-0 | 3.86 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 7.0 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | .308 |
| Lopez, Daniel | 0-2 | 0.96 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 9.1 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 12 | .310 |
| Murillo, Eliezer | 0-3 | 8.22 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 7.2 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | .267 |
| Oberholtzer, Brett | 1-0 | 2.63 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13.2 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 14 | .250 |
| Reid, Rico | 0-1 | 1.00 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9.0 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | .237 |
| Rodriguez, Santos | 0-0 | 0.00 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6.0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | .100 |
| Spruill, Ezekiel | 3-0 | 1.13 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 16.0 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 16 | .226 |

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

### DANVILLE
ROOKIE ADVANCED

FIRST BASEMAN **Gerardo Rodriguez** was the first season's recipient of the Appalachian League's Offensive Player of the Week award after batting .333 with four home runs and 12 RBIs for the week ending June 22. The 20-year-old Rodriguez, a former catcher who is making the adjustments at first base, hit a home run in his first game with Danville before hitting two more and driving in seven runs a night later, on June 18, in the D-Braves' 10-3 victory over Burlington. Through July 13, Rodriguez paced the Appy League with eight homers and 26 RBIs...

**Julio Teheran** won his United States debut on June 18 when he allowed three earned runs on five hits while striking out three over five innings. Teheran issued no walks. After pitching again on June 23, Teheran experienced some soreness in his right shoulder and traveled to Atlanta to have it examined. Though no damage was discovered, the Braves are being cautious with the 17-year-old righthander from Colombia...

After struggling during his month-long stay at Rome by hitting .173 in 22 games, third baseman **Jon Gilmore** has refined his approach at the plate and gained confidence since joining the D-Braves. Gilmore went 4-for-5 with three doubles in a 10-1 win over Bluefield on July 8 and is making steady improvement at third after playing shortstop throughout his amateur days. In his first 26 games, Gilmore was hitting .350 and had at least two doubles in four games...

**Casey Hodges**, a 23rd-round pick out of Mount Olive (N.C.) College has made the biggest splash thus far among Atlanta's 2008 draft class. The son of former major league catcher **Ron Hodges** had a 3-1 record with a league-low 0.60 ERA after five appearances. He posted a pair of seven-inning complete game shutouts by pounding the strike zone while mixing in a devastating changeup...

**Craig Kimbrel**, a third-round draft pick in June, had four saves in his first six outings with 12 strikeouts in 10 1/3 innings. Kimbrel, who is capable of throwing in the mid-to-upper 90s, did not allow a run during that stretch...

### GULF COAST
ROOKIE

ZEKE SPRUILL won his first three decisions and owned a 1.13 ERA after his first four professional outings. Spruill, a second-round draft pick in June, was considered to be one of the top two high school pitchers from Georgia...

Three other pitchers selected in the June draft - seventh-rounder **Paul Clemens**, eighth-rounder **Brett Oberholtzer**, and ninth-rounder **Kyle Farrell** - also had solid starts in the GCL. Clemens won his first outing, a three-inning stint in which he did not allow a run. Oberholtzer was 1-0 with a 2.63 ERA after four appearances. Farrell had a 1.93 ERA after three games, including one start...

Righthander **Cory Rasmus**, a supplemental first-round draft pick in 2006, returned to the mound in late June. Rasmus, who missed all of the 2007 season while undergoing surgery to tighten the muscles in his right shoulder, did not allow an earned run in his first three outings, covering 4 2/3 innings...

**Anthony Lerew** is also back on the mound after undergoing Tommy John surgery in July 2007. The righthander has pitched 8 2/3 innings, allowing four earned runs and seven hits during his initial three outings as part of his prescribed rehab.

# TICKETING

TO PURCHASE SEASON TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (404) 577-9100 OR VISIT **braves.com/tickets**

## INDIVIDUAL PRICES

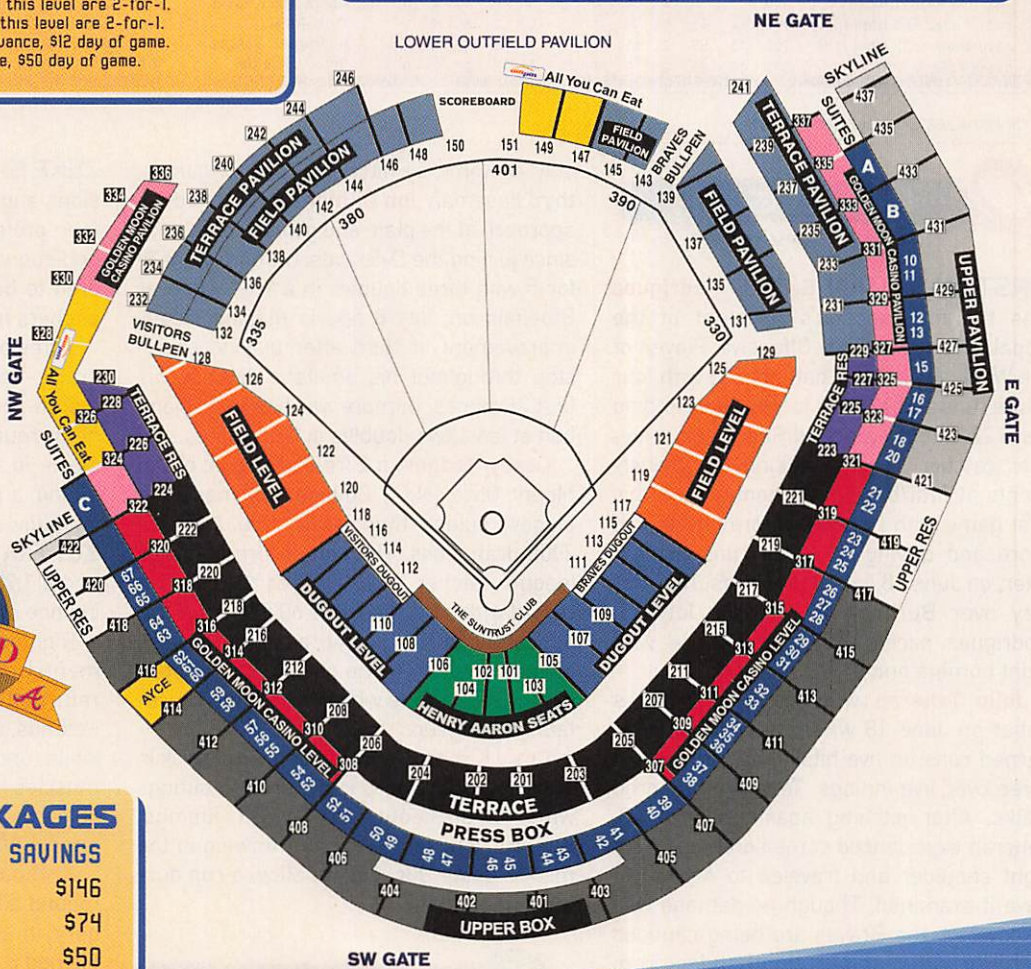
| SECTION | REGULAR | PREMIUM* |
|---|---|---|
| Henry Aaron | $70 | $74 |
| Dugout | $60 | $64 |
| Golden Moon Casino Level | $38 | $42 |
| Field | $36 | $40 |
| Terrace | $36 | $40 |
| Club Pavilion | $28 | $32 |
| Terrace Reserved | $24 | $28 |
| Outfield Pavilion** | $22 | $26 |
| Upper Box | $12 | $16 |
| Upper Reserved*** | $8 | $12 |
| Upper Pavilion | $6 | $6 |

* All Friday, Saturday games and Opening Day.
** All Wednesday games in this level are 2-for-1.
*** All Tuesday games in this level are 2-for-1.
Parking: $10 per car in advance, $12 day of game.
$40 per bus in advance, $50 day of game.

## *FULL SEASON

| SECTION | PRICE | SAVINGS |
|---|---|---|
| Dugout | $4,316 | $772 |
| Terrace | $2,490 | $606 |
| Field | $2,490 | $606 |
| Club | $2,822 | $440 |
| Outfield Pavilion | $996 | $938 |
| Upper Box | $830 | $274 |
| Upper Pavilion | $249 | $249 |
| Terrace Reserved* | $1,826 | $274 |
| Club Pavilion* | $2,158 | $274 |
| All You Can Eat Outfield | $2,905 | $965 |
| All You Can Eat Club Pavilion | $3,984 | $1,546 |

*Inquire about pro-rated prices

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|---|---|---|
| Full Season | $850 | $146 |
| Half Season | $430 | $74 |
| Weekend | $310 | $50 |
| 20-Game | $200 | $40 |

*Inquire about pro-rated prices

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- MasterCard Grand Slam Pack: 4 Tickets, 4 hotdogs, 4 Cokes, parking and yearbook, starting at $59.
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- Military Discount: Show ID at Turner Field ticket window to get 2 Upper Box tickets for the price of 1.
- Topps Thursdays: Present/surrender 1 Topps baseball card wrapper at Turner Field ticket window to receive 1 Free Outfield Pavilion ticket with the purchase of 1 ticket of equal/greater value.

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OUTFIELD PAVILION $84

TERRACE LEVEL $140

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AUG. 1, 15, SEPT. 5, 19

**CUBS/CARDS**
JULY 30, 31, AUG. 13, 14

**SUNDAYS**
AUG. 3, 17, SEPT. 7, 21

**SATURDAYS**
AUG. 2, 16, SEPT. 6, 20

**PLAYOFF PUSH**
SEPT. 18, 19, 20, 21


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# JULY/AUGUST

TURNER FIELD | AWAY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 1:35 PM PHI SS | 28 7:00 PM STL SS | 29 7:00 PM STL PTV | 30 7:00 PM STL FSN | 31 7:00 PM STL PTV | 1 7:30 PM MIL PTV | 2 3:55 PM MIL FOX |
| 3 1:30 PM MIL SS | 4 10:15 PM SF SS | 5 10:15 PM SF SS | 6 3:45 PM SF FSN | 7 9:40 PM AZ SS | 8 9:40 PM AZ SS | 9 8:10 PM AZ SS |
| 10 4:10 PM AZ SS | 11 | 12 7:00 PM CHC PTV | 13 7:00 PM CHC FSN | 14 7:00 PM CHC FSN | 15 7:30 PM SF PTV | 16 7:00 PM SF PTV |
| 17 1:30 PM SF SS | 18 4:30 PM SF SS | 19 7:10 PM NYM PTV | 20 7:10 PM NYM FSN | 21 7:10 PM NYM PTV | 22 8:15 PM STL SS | 23 3:55 PM STL FOX |
| 24 2:15 PM STL SS | 25 | 26 7:00 PM FLA SS | 27 7:00 PM FLA FSN | 28 7:00 PM FLA SS | 29 7:35 PM WSH SS | 30 7:10 PM WSH SS |
| 31 1:35 PM WSH SS | | | | | | |

# SEPTEMBER

TURNER FIELD | AWAY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 1:10 PM FLA SS | 2 7:10 PM FLA SS | 3 1:10 PM FLA FSN | 4 7:00 PM WSH FSN | 5 7:30 PM WSH PTV | 6 7:00 PM WSH SS |
| 7 1:30 PM WSH SS | 8 | 9 7:00 PM COL PTV | 10 7:00 PM COL FSN | 11 7:00 PM COL PTV | 12 7:10 PM NYM ESPN | 13 3:55 PM NYM FOX |
| 14 1:10 PM NYM SS | 15 | 16 7:00 PM PHI SS | 17 7:00 PM PHI FSN | 18 7:00 PM PHI PTV | 19 7:30 PM NYM PTV/ESPN | 20 7:00 PM NYM SS |
| 21 1:30 PM NYM SS | 22 7:05 PM PHI PTV | 23 7:05 PM PHI PTV | 24 7:05 PM PHI FSN | 25 | 26 8:05 PM HOU SS | 27 7:05 PM HOU SS |
| 28 2:05 PM HOU SS | 29 | 30 | | | | |

# OCTOBER

POST-SEASON DATES ARE TENTATIVE, UNOFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 08 DIVISION SERIES | 2 | 3 NLDS 2008 | 4 NLDS 2008 |
| 5 NLDS 2008 | 6 NLDS 2008 | 7 NLDS 2008 | 8 | 9 08 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES | 10 | 11 NLCS 2008 |
| 12 NLCS 2008 | 13 NLCS 2008 | 14 NLCS 2008 | 15 NLCS 2008 | 16 NLCS 2008 | 17 NLCS 2008 | 18 NLCS 2008 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 WORLD SERIES 2008 | 23 WORLD SERIES 2008 | 24 | 25 WORLD SERIES 2008 |
| 26 WORLD SERIES 2008 | 27 WORLD SERIES 2008 | 28 | 29 WORLD SERIES 2008 | 30 WORLD SERIES 2008 | 31 | |

TENTATIVE; SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
FOR SEASON, GROUP AND SUITE TICKET INFORMATION CALL (404) 577-9100 OR braves.com

# INDIVIDUAL STATS

AS OF 7/13/08

| BATTERS | AVG | G | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | TB | BB | SO | SB | CS | OBP | SLG | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| JONES | .376 | 83 | 298 | 56 | 112 | 15 | 1 | 18 | 51 | 183 | 56 | 40 | 2 | 0 | .472 | .614 | 8 |
| RIGHT | .419 | | 105 | | 44 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 59 | 19 | 10 | | | .504 | .562 | |
| LEFT | .352 | | 193 | | 68 | 11 | 0 | 15 | 38 | 124 | 37 | 30 | | | .455 | .642 | |
| McCANN | .302 | 89 | 318 | 42 | 96 | 27 | 1 | 18 | 53 | 179 | 35 | 42 | 1 | 0 | .377 | .563 | 3 |
| ESCOBAR | .286 | 83 | 332 | 44 | 95 | 12 | 1 | 6 | 35 | 127 | 36 | 44 | 2 | 4 | .355 | .383 | 7 |
| INFANTE | .282 | 41 | 110 | 11 | 31 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 47 | 11 | 14 | 0 | 0 | .344 | .427 | 6 |
| KOTSAY | .279 | 58 | 208 | 27 | 58 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 23 | 82 | 16 | 21 | 2 | 2 | .329 | .394 | 0 |
| PRADO | .276 | 25 | 58 | 11 | 16 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 23 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 0 | .358 | .397 | 4 |
| JOHNSON | .272 | 86 | 313 | 49 | 85 | 22 | 2 | 8 | 38 | 135 | 36 | 64 | 7 | 2 | .346 | .431 | 9 |
| TEIXEIRA | .271 | 93 | 347 | 54 | 94 | 23 | 0 | 17 | 69 | 168 | 55 | 64 | 0 | 0 | .373 | .484 | 2 |
| RIGHT | .246 | | 118 | | 29 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 25 | 49 | 23 | 19 | | | .373 | .415 | |
| LEFT | .284 | | 229 | | 65 | 18 | 0 | 12 | 44 | 119 | 32 | 45 | | | .374 | .520 | |
| BLANCO | .257 | 82 | 261 | 28 | 67 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 82 | 38 | 60 | 9 | 2 | .356 | .314 | 1 |
| DIAZ | .250 | 42 | 132 | 9 | 33 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 41 | 3 | 32 | 4 | 2 | .270 | .311 | 1 |
| LILLIBRIDGE | .237 | 12 | 38 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 16 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | .256 | .421 | 1 |
| FRANCOEUR | .234 | 90 | 355 | 42 | 83 | 19 | 2 | 9 | 44 | 133 | 20 | 64 | 0 | 1 | .285 | .375 | 2 |
| GOTAY | .216 | 58 | 74 | 6 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 24 | 10 | 23 | 1 | 1 | .310 | .324 | 2 |
| RIGHT | .130 | | 23 | | 3 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 9 | | | | .259 | .130 |
| LEFT | .255 | | 51 | | 13 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 21 | 6 | 14 | | | .333 | .412 | |
| NORTON | .202 | 54 | 109 | 12 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 36 | 15 | 27 | 0 | 0 | .298 | .330 | 1 |
| RIGHT | .176 | | 34 | | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 10 | | | .282 | .324 | |
| LEFT | .213 | | 75 | | 16 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 25 | 10 | 17 | | | .306 | .333 | |
| AL | .438 | 6 | 16 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | .500 | .563 | 1 |
| MILLER | .093 | 22 | 43 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 0 | .170 | .163 | 0 |
| ATLANTA | .265 | 95 | 3,268 | 421 | 865 | 165 | 21 | 91 | 404 | 1,345 | 359 | 600 | 31 | 14 | .340 | .412 | 57 |
| OPPONENTS | .245 | 95 | 3,155 | 383 | 774 | 174 | 22 | 81 | 362 | 1,235 | 330 | 631 | 63 | 22 | .320 | .391 | 59 |

**PINCH-HITTERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI)** **Jones** (.667-2-0-1), **Diaz** (.375-3-0-0), **Johnson** (.333-1-1-4), **Kotsay** (.333-1-0-0), **Infante** (.286-2-0-3), **Blanco** (.250-1-0-0), **Miller** (.250-1-1-2), **Gotay** (.237-9-1-2), **Norton** (.211-4-0-5), **McCann** (.200-1-0-0), **Prado** (.167-1-0-1), **Escobar** (.000-0-0-0), **Francoeur** (.000-0-0-0), **Glavine** (.0000-0-0), **Reyes** (.000-0-0-0). **TEAM** (.244-30-3-18).

**PITCHERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI)** **Campillo** (.238-5-0-2), **Carlyle** (.200-1-0-0), **Bennett** (.143-1-0-0), **Hudson** (.111-4-0-2), **Glavine** (.105-2-0-1), **Jurrjens** (.091-3-0-0), **Acosta** (.000-0-0-0), **Boyer** (.000-0-0-0), **Reyes** (.000-0-0-0), **Smoltz** (.000-00-1). **STAFF** (.104-16-0-6).

**BATTING KEY:** Batting average, SLG-Slugging percentage, OBP-On-base percentage, G-Games, AB-At-bats, R-Runs, H-Hits, 2B-Doubles, 3B-Triples, HR-Home runs, RBI-Runs batted in, TB-Total bases, BB-Walks, SO-Strikeouts, SB-Stolen bases, CS-Caught stealing, E-Errors

**PITCHING KEY:** W-L-Wins-Losses, ERA-Earned run average, GS-Starts, GF-Games finished, SV-Saves, IP-Innings pitched, HB-Hit batters, WP-Wild pitches, OBA-Opponents' batting average.

| PITCHERS | W-L | ERA | G | GS | GF | SV | IP | H | R | ER | HR | HB | BB | SO | WP | OBA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NUNEZ | 0-0 | 0.00 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 |
| CARLYLE | 0-0 | 1.55 | 19 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 29 | 18 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 31 | 3 | .178 |
| MOYLAN | 0-1 | 1.59 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5.2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | .217 |
| SORIANO | 0-0 | 2.00 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 11 | 1 | .129 |
| GONZALEZ | 0-0 | 2.53 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 10.2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | .154 |
| SMOLTZ | 3-2 | 2.57 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 25 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 36 | 2 | .229 |
| OHMAN | 3-0 | 2.77 | 49 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 39 | 29 | 15 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 34 | 1 | .204 |
| JURRJENS | 9-4 | 3.00 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 111 | 105 | 43 | 37 | 8 | 2 | 41 | 81 | 1 | .248 |
| CAMPILLO | 4-4 | 3.06 | 25 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 85.1 | 75 | 33 | 29 | 8 | 0 | 19 | 59 | 1 | .240 |
| HUDSON | 9-7 | 3.13 | 21 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 129.1 | 113 | 48 | 45 | 11 | 2 | 38 | 77 | 3 | .238 |
| RING | 2-1 | 3.44 | 34 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 18.1 | 17 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 0 | .250 |
| BOYER | 2-5 | 3.93 | 51 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 52.2 | 47 | 27 | 23 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 45 | 0 | .237 |
| ACOSTA | 3-5 | 4.02 | 41 | 0 | 19 | 3 | 47 | 44 | 25 | 21 | 7 | 1 | 24 | 25 | 3 | .256 |
| BENNETT | 1-4 | 4.28 | 41 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 61 | 59 | 29 | 29 | 5 | 6 | 33 | 45 | 3 | .262 |
| REYES | 3-8 | 4.40 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 77.2 | 81 | 41 | 38 | 8 | 2 | 30 | 59 | 2 | .276 |
| GLAVINE | 2-3 | 4.85 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 59.1 | 60 | 33 | 32 | 9 | 1 | 33 | 34 | 0 | .276 |
| MORTON | 2-2 | 5.93 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 30.1 | 37 | 22 | 20 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 18 | 1 | .296 |
| TAVAREZ | 0-1 | 9.39 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7.2 | 15 | 12 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 0 | .395 |
| ATL | 0-0 | 27.00 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | .667 |
| AL | 0-1 | 6.39 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 12.2 | 18 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 1 | .346 |
| ATLANTA | 45-50 | 3.69 | 95 | 95 | 93 | 14 | 847.2 | 774 | 383 | 348 | 81 | 25 | 330 | 631 | 23 | .245 |
| OPPONENTS | 50-45 | 4.18 | 95 | 95 | 91 | 21 | 847.2 | 865 | 421 | 394 | 91 | 22 | 359 | 600 | 19 | .265 |

# GAME BY GAME

| GAME | DATE | OPP | H/A | W-L | SCORE | W/L PITCHER | ATL HRS | REC | POS | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3/30 | WAS | A | L | 2-3 | Moylan (0-1) | Jones (1) | 0-1 | 5 | -1/2 |
| 2 | 3/31 | PIT | H | L | 11-12 (12) | Boyer (0-1) | McCann (1), Francoeur (1) | 0-2 | 5 | -2 |
| 3 | 4/2 | PIT | H | W | 10-2 | Jurrjens (1-0) | Diaz (1), Teixeira (1), Escobar (1) | 1-2 | T-3 | -2 |
| 4 | 4/3 | PIT | H | L | 3-4 (10) | Resop (0-1) | -- | 1-3 | 5 | -2 |
| 5 | 4/5 | NYM | H | W | 11-5 | Hudson (1-0) | Johnson (1) | 2-3 | T-4 | -1 |
| 6 | 4/6 | NYM | H | W | 3-1 | Smoltz (1-0) | Teixeira (2) | 3-3 | T-1 | — |
| 7 | 4/7 | COL | A | L | 1-2 | Boyer (0-2) | -- | 3-4 | T-2 | -1 |
| 8 | 4/8 | COL | A | L | 3-4 | Jurrjens (1-1) | Kotsay (1) | 3-5 | T-3 | -1 1/2 |
| 9 | 4/9 | COL | A | L | 6-12 | James (0-1) | McCann (2) | 3-6 | T-4 | -2 1/2 |
| 10 | 4/11 | WAS | A | W | 3-0 | Hudson (2-0) | Escobar (2) | 4-6 | 4 | -3 |
| 11 | 4/12 | WAS | A | W | 10-2 | Smoltz (2-0) | Francoeur 2 (3), McCann (3) | 5-6 | 4 | -2 |
| 12 | 4/13 | WAS | A | L | 4-5 | Glavine (0-1) | Jones (2) | 5-7 | 4 | -2 |
| 13 | 4/15 | FLA | A | L | 0-4 | Jurrjens (1-2) | -- | 5-8 | 4 | -3 |
| 14 | 4/16 | FLA | A | L | 5-6 | Hudson (2-1) | Escobar (3) | 5-9 | 4 | -4 |
| 15 | 4/17 | FLA | A | W | 8-0 | Smoltz (3-0) | Jones 2 (4), Teixeira (3), McCann (4), Johnson (2) | 6-9 | 4 | -3 |
| 16 | 4/18 | LAD | H | W | 6-1 | Ohman (1-0) | Jones 2 (6) | 7-9 | 4 | -2 1/2 |
| 17 | 4/19 | LAD | H | W | 4-1 | James (1-1) | -- | 8-9 | 3 | -2 1/2 |
| 18 | 4/20 | LAD | H | W | 6-1 | Jurrjens (2-2) | Johnson (3), Teixeira (4) | 9-9 | 3 | -2 |
| 19 | 4/21 | WAS | H | W | 7-3 | Hudson (3-1) | McCann (5) | 10-9 | 3 | -2 |
| 20 | 4/22 | WAS | H | L | 0-6 | Smoltz (3-1) | -- | 10-10 | 4 | -2 |
| 21 | 4/23 | FLA | H | L | 2-7 | Bennett (0-1) | Diaz (2) | 10-11 | 4 | -3 |
| 22 | 4/24 | FLA | H | W | 7-4 | James (2-1) | Jones (7) | 11-11 | 4 | -2 |
| 23 | 4/25 | NYM | A | W | 6-3 | Jurrjens (3-2) | Johnson (4) | 12-11 | 3 | -2 |
| 24 | 4/26 | NYM | A | L | 3-4 | Hudson (3-2) | -- | 12-12 | 4 | -2 |
| 25 | 4/27 | NYM | A | L | 3-6 | Smoltz (3-2) | -- | 12-13 | 4 | -3 |
| 26 | 4/29 | WAS | A | L | 3-6 | Boyer (0-3) | Jones (8) | 12-14 | 4 | -3 |
| 27 | 4/30 | WAS | A | L | 2-3 (12) | Acosta (0-1) | -- | 12-15 | 4 | -3 |
| 28 | 5/2 | CIN | H | W | 2-0 | Hudson (4-2) | McCann (6) | 13-15 | 4 | -3 |
| 29 | 5/3 | CIN | H | W | 9-1 | Reyes (1-0) | -- | 14-15 | 4 | -2 |
| 30 | 5/4 | CIN | H | W | 14-7 | Ring (1-0) | Jones (9), Kotsay (2) | 15-15 | 4 | -2 |
| 31 | 5/6 | SD | H | W | 5-3 | Jurrjens (4-2) | Jones (10), Kotsay (3) | 16-15 | T-3 | -1 1/2 |
| 32 | 5/7 | SD | H | W | 5-2 | Hudson (5-2) | -- | 17-15 | T-3 | -1 1/2 |
| 33 | 5/8 | SD | H | W | 5-4 | Acosta (1-1) | -- | 18-15 | 3 | -1 1/2 |
| 34 | 5/9 | PIT | A | L | 2-3 | Bennett (0-2) | -- | 18-16 | 4 | -2 1/2 |
| 35 | 5/10 | PIT | A | L | 2-5 | James (2-2) | Teixeira (5) | 18-17 | 4 | -3 1/2 |
| 36 | 5/12 (1 of 2) | PIT | A | L | 0-5 | Jurrjens (4-3) | -- | 18-18 | 4 | -4 1/2 |
| 37 | 5/12 (2 of 2) | PIT | A | W | 8-1 | Hudson (6-2) | McCann (7) | 19-18 | 4 | -3 1/2 |
| 38 | 5/13 | PHI | A | L | 4-5 | Reyes (1-1) | -- | 19-19 | 4 | -3 1/2 |
| 39 | 5/14 | PHI | A | W | 8-6 | Glavine (1-1) | Escobar (4), Jones (11), Johnson (5) | 20-19 | 4 | -2 1/2 |
| 40 | 5/15 | PHI | A | L | 0-5 | James (2-3) | -- | 20-20 | 4 | -3 |
| 41 | 5/16 | OAK | H | W | 3-2 | Acosta (2-1) | -- | 21-20 | 4 | -2 |
| 42 | 5/17 | OAK | H | L | 4-5 | Hudson (6-3) | -- | 21-21 | 4 | -3 |
| 43 | 5/18 | OAK | H | W | 5-2 | Reyes (2-1) | -- | 22-21 | 4 | -2 |
| 44 | 5/20 (1 of 2) | NYM | H | W | 6-1 | Glavine (2-1) | McCann (8) | 23-21 | 3 | -1 1/2 |
| 45 | 5/20 (2 of 2) | NYM | H | W | 6-2 | Campillo (1-0) | Kotsay (4) | 24-21 | 2 | -1 1/2 |
| 46 | 5/21 | NYM | H | W | 11-4 | Jurrjens (5-3) | Jones (12), Francoeur (4) | 25-21 | 2 | -1 1/2 |
| 47 | 5/22 | NYM | H | W | 4-2 | Hudson (7-3) | -- | 26-21 | 2 | -1 1/2 |
| 48 | 5/23 | ARZ | H | L | 1-11 | Reyes (2-2) | -- | 26-22 | 2 | -1 1/2 |
| 49 | 5/24 | ARZ | H | W | 3-1 | Boyer (1-3) | Francoeur (5) | 27-22 | 2 | -1 |
| 50 | 5/25 | ARZ | H | L | 3-9 | Glavine (2-2) | -- | 27-23 | 2 | -2 1/2 |
| 51 | 5/26 | ARZ | H | W | 7-3 | Acosta (3-1) | McCann (9) | 28-23 | 2 | -2 1/2 |
| 52 | 5/27 | MIL | A | L | 2-3 | Bennett (0-3) | Johnson (6), Blanco (1) | 28-24 | 3 | -2 1/2 |
| 53 | 5/28 | MIL | A | L | 0-1 | Reyes (2-3) | -- | 28-25 | 3 | -2 1/2 |
| 54 | 5/29 | MIL | A | W | 8-1 | Campillo (2-0) | Teixeira (6) | 29-25 | 3 | -2 |
| 55 | 5/30 | CIN | A | L | 2-3 (11) | Ring (1-1) | -- | 29-26 | 3 | -2 1/2 |
| 56 | 5/31 | CIN | A | L | 7-8 (10) | Acosta (3-2) | Norton (1), Teixeira (7), Francoeur (6) | 29-27 | 3 | -3 |

| GAME | DATE | OPP | H/A | W-L | SCORE | W/L PITCHER | ATL HRS | REC | POS | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | 6/1 | CIN | A | L | 2-6 | Hudson (7-4) | Teixeira (8), McCann (10) | 29-28 | 4 | -3 1/2 |
| 58 | 6/2 | FLA | H | W | 7-5 (10) | Ohman (2-0) | Francoeur (7), Teixeira (9), Escobar (5) | 30-28 | 3 | -3 1/2 |
| 59 | 6/3 | FLA | H | W | 5-4 | Ohman (3-0) | Jones (13) | 31-28 | 3 | -3 1/2 |
| 60 | 6/4 | FLA | H | L | 4-6 | Acosta (3-3) | -- | 31-29 | T-3 | -3 1/2 |
| 61 | 6/5 | FLA | H | W | 7-5 | Jurrjens (6-3) | Escobar (6), McCann (11), Jones (14) | 32-29 | 3 | -3 1/2 |
| 62 | 6/6 | PHI | H | L | 3-4 (10) | Acosta (3-4) | McCann (12) | 32-30 | 3 | -4 1/2 |
| 63 | 6/7 | PHI | H | L | 2-6 | Reyes (2-4) | Jones (15) | 32-31 | 3 | -5 1/2 |
| 64 | 6/8 | PHI | H | L | 3-6 | Boyer (1-4) | Teixeira (10) | 32-32 | 3 | -6 1/2 |
| 65 | 6/10 | CHC | A | L | 5-10 | Glavine (2-3) | Norton (2) | 32-33 | 3 | -6 1/2 |
| 66 | 6/11 | CHC | A | L | 2-7 | Bennett (0-4) | Miller (1) | 32-34 | 3 | -6 1/2 |
| 67 | 6/12 | CHC | A | L | 2-3 (11) | Acosta (3-5) | Francoeur (8) | 32-35 | 3 | -7 1/2 |
| 68 | 6/13 | LAA | A | W | 5-2 | Reyes (3-4) | -- | 33-35 | 3 | -7 1/2 |
| 69 | 6/14 | LAA | A | W | 9-4 | Morton (1-0) | B. Jones (1), Johnson (7) | 34-35 | 3 | -6 1/2 |
| 70 | 6/15 | LAA | A | L | 0-2 | Campillo (2-1) | -- | 34-36 | 3 | -6 1/2 |
| 71 | 6/16 | COL | A | W | 7-1 | Jurrjens (7-3) | -- | 35-36 | 3 | -6 1/2 |
| 72 | 6/17 | TEX | A | L | 5-7 | Hudson (7-5) | Infante (1), McCann (13) | 35-37 | 3 | -6 1/2 |
| 73 | 6/18 | TEX | A | W | 5-2 | Bennett (1-4) | Jones (16) | 36-37 | 3 | -5 1/2 |
| 74 | 6/19 | TEX | A | L | 4-5 | Boyer (1-5) | -- | 36-38 | 4 | -6 |
| 75 | 6/20 | SEA | H | L | 2-10 | Campillo (2-2) | -- | 36-39 | 4 | -6 |
| 76 | 6/21 | SEA | H | W | 5-4 | Boyer (2-5) | Gotay (1) | 37-39 | 4 | 5 |
| 77 | 6/22 | SEA | H | W | 8-3 | Hudson (8-5) | Teixeira 3 (13), McCann (14) | 38-39 | 4 | -4 |
| 78 | 6/23 | MIL | H | L | 1-4 | Reyes (3-5) | -- | 38-40 | 4 | -4 1/2 |
| 79 | 6/24 | MIL | H | L | 3-4 | Morton (1-1) | Teixeira (14) | 38-41 | 4 | -4 1/2 |
| 80 | 6/25 | MIL | H | W | 4-2 | Campillo (3-2) | -- | 39-41 | 4 | -4 1/2 |
| 81 | 6/27 | TOR | A | W | 4-0 | Jurrjens (8-3) | Teixeira (15) | 40-41 | T-3 | -3 |
| 82 | 6/28 | TOR | A | L | 5-9 | Hudson (8-6) | Teixeira (16) | 40-42 | T-3 | -4 |
| 83 | 6/29 | TOR | A | L | 0-1 | Reyes (3-6) | -- | 40-43 | 4 | -4 |
| 84 | 7/1 | PHI | H | L | 3-8 | Morton (1-2) | -- | 40-44 | 4 | -5 |
| 85 | 7/2 | PHI | H | L | 3-7 | Campillo (3-3) | Gotay (2), Jones (17) | 40-45 | 4 | -6 |
| 86 | 7/3 | PHI | H | L | 1-4 | Jurrjens (8-4) | -- | 40-46 | 4 | -7 |
| 87 | 7/4 | HOU | H | W | 6-2 | Hudson (9-6) | Johnson (8) | 41-46 | 4 | -7 |
| 88 | 7/5 | HOU | H | L | 1-6 | Reyes (3-7) | McCann (15) | 41-47 | 4 | -7 |
| 89 | 7/6 | HOU | H | W | 7-6 (17) | Ring (2-1) | Jones (18) | 42-47 | 4 | -6 |
| 90 | 7/7 | LAD | A | L | 0-3 | Campillo (3-4) | -- | 42-48 | 4 | -6 |
| 91 | 7/8 | LAD | A | W | 9-3 | Jurrjens (9-4) | McCann 2 (17), Teixeira (17) | 43-48 | 4 | -5 |
| 92 | 7/9 | LAD | A | L | 1-2 | Hudson (9-7) | Francoeur (9) | 43-49 | 4 | -6 |
| 93 | 7/11 | SD | A | L | 0-4 | Reyes (3-8) | -- | 43-50 | 4 | -7 1/2 |
| 94 | 7/12 | SD | A | W | 4-1 | Morton (2-2) | Lillibridge (1) | 44-50 | 4 | -6 1/2 |
| 95 | 7/13 | SD | A | W | 12-3 | Campillo (4-4) | McCann (18) | 45-50 | 4 | -6 1/2 |

# ROSTER

As of July 13

## PITCHERS (12)

*46 MANNY ACOSTA
*30 JEFF BENNETT
56 BLAINE BOYER
57 JORGE CAMPILLO
38 BUDDY CARLYLE
*47 TOM GLAVINE
51 MIKE GONZALEZ
*32 MIKE HAMPTON
15 TIM HUDSON
49 JAIR JURRJENS
50 CHARLIE MORTON
48 VLADIMIR NUNEZ
*58 PETER MOYLAN

## CATCHERS (2)

16 BRIAN McCANN
27 CORKY MILLER

## INFIELDERS (8)

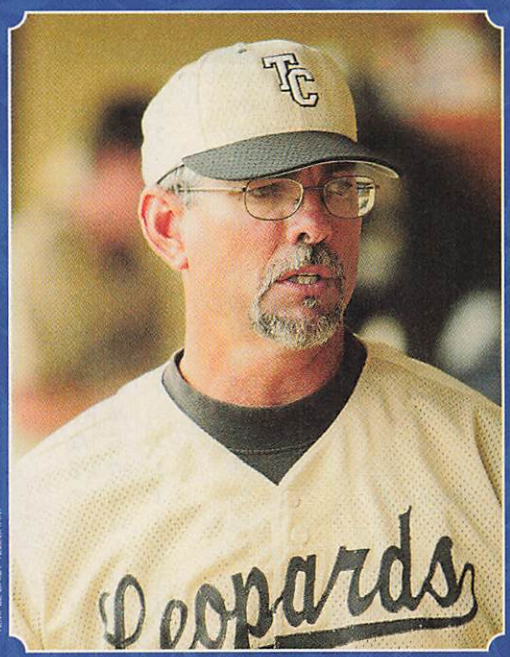
19 YUNEL ESCOBAR
8 RUBEN GOTAY
13 WILL OHMAN
37 JO-JO REYES
34 ROYCE RING
*29 JOHN SMOLTZ
*39 RAFAEL SORIANO
54 JULIAN TAVAREZ

*4 OMAR INFANTE
2 KELLY JOHNSON
10 CHIPPER JONES
1 BRENT LILLIBRIDGE
20 GREG NORTON
14 MARTIN PRADO
24 MARK TEIXEIRA

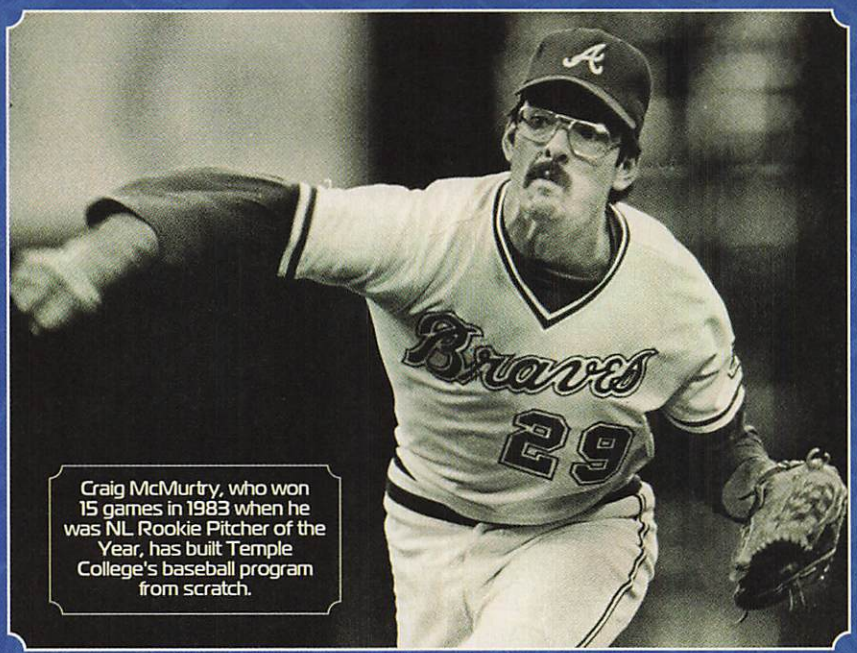
## OUTFIELDERS (3)

18 GREGOR BLANCO
*23 MATT DIAZ
7 JEFF FRANCOEUR
11 MARK KOTSAY

* DISABLED LIST




TEMPLE DAILY TELEGRAM




Craig McMurtry, who won 15 games in 1983 when he was NL Rookie Pitcher of the Year, has built Temple College's baseball program from scratch.

ATLANTA BRAVES

# LONG, TALL TEXAN

## Rookie Sensation Craig McMurtry Now a College Coaching Success Story

BY BRIAN KNAPP

**CRAIG MCMURTRY** has made the same pleasant, eight-mile commute to and from work for the last 10 years, disturbed only by the occasional hum of a distant tractor or murmur of a grazing farm animal. The head coach of the Temple College baseball team in Temple, Texas, the former Braves righthander could not have written a better script for his post-playing career. He has remained active in baseball and stayed close to home, too.

"The only traffic jam we see around here is when a cow gets out," McMurtry said. "I live about a mile from where I was raised. Our kids went to the same high school my wife and I did. I've always enjoyed being at home."

McMurtry agreed to lead the Temple College program in 1999 after it was dormant for more than two decades. The resurrection was a smashing success. He's built the two-year school into a perennial power, averaging better than 30 wins per season (31-25 in 2008). In fact, Temple College has reached the post-season seven years in a row and was ranked eighth nationally after the Leopards appeared in the 2006 Junior College World Series.

Now 48, McMurtry measures success by more than wins and losses.

"To give these guys a chance to play baseball in junior college and then get a chance to play beyond that – that's what I enjoy," he said. "I'm trying to use what I learned in pro ball to teach them a little bit about the game."

Day-to-day challenges are many and start with the inexact science of recruiting. With only seven to eight scholarships available per year – some of McMurtry's peers can award as many as 20 – keeping the program stocked with talent and depth proves difficult at times.

"Each school decides on the number of scholarships it offers, on how much money it wants to put in the program," McMurtry said. "There are a lot of good junior college programs in Texas, and trying to get the better players to come here is tough."

The lack of available scholarships forces McMurtry to hit the recruiting trail hard and often. The traditional high school baseball season and its accompanying fall and summer leagues provide for a relentless cycle of rubber meeting road, hours of tape study and phone calls to prospective players.

"To do it right, you have to spend a lot of time on it," McMurtry said. "It's a never-ending process."

McMurtry was once a part of the process as a player. Drafted by the Braves in the first round in 1980, he progressed quickly through the Atlanta farm system and arrived in the major leagues as a 23-year-old rookie in 1983 when the Braves fell just three games short of a second straight division title under manager Joe Torre.

The Texan enjoyed a breakout rookie season, ranking in the top 10 in the National League in wins (15), earned run average (3.08) and shutouts (3). He worked 224 2/3 innings – a number he would never again approach – and finished second to Darryl Strawberry in NL Rookie of the Year balloting. He was named NL Rookie Pitcher of the Year by The Sporting News, finished seventh in voting for the NL Cy Young Award, and was named to the Baseball Digest Rookie All-Star Team.

"Pretty much everything went right," McMurtry said. "I had a lot of confidence, and I wasn't really thinking a whole lot out there."

His career took a dramatic turn for the worse, however, when he lost 17 games – second only to Cincinnati's Jeff Russell – in 1984, developed tendinitis in his pitching elbow, and was ultimately relegated to bullpen duty. McMurtry walked more batters (102) than he struck out (99), and his confidence seemed to wax and wane with every pitch.

"I expected a lot out of myself, and it seemed like every time something could go wrong, it did," McMurtry said. "I pretty much had a brutal year and started thinking that maybe I didn't belong there. I'm not the first guy it's happened to."

McMurtry pitched in Atlanta for two more years, during which both he and the Braves sank to new lows. He won just one game in his final two seasons and was shipped to Toronto in February 1987 in exchange for Damaso Garcia and Luis Leal.

However, McMurtry never threw a pitch for the Blue Jays. He signed as a free agent with the Rangers a year later and experienced something of a renaissance in 1988, when he appeared in 32 games, earned three saves and allowed only 37 hits in 60 innings.

Texas kept him on board for two additional seasons, but by 1991, he was out of the major leagues entirely. The greatness some once believed to be in his future never materialized. He finished with a 28-42 career record, 4 saves and a 4.08 ERA in 212 games over eight seasons.

"You always look back and think about what you could have done differently, unless you've had a Hall-of-Fame career," McMurtry said. "I was really fortunate to get a chance to play."

McMurtry re-emerged briefly in 1995, when, as a member of the Houston Astros, he made the controversial decision to cross the picket line during the players' strike. When the bitter work stoppage ended that spring, the Astros sent him to Triple A, where he earned a late-season promotion to the major leagues. He was ineffective in 11 appearances, surrendering 15 hits and nine earned runs in 10 1/3 innings. Soon after, arm injuries and the personal tug he felt from home led to retirement for the married father of three.

"I kept telling myself, 'I know I can still pitch in the big leagues,'" McMurtry said. "I got my shot with the Astros. Once that happened – with the arm injuries and family issues I'd been dealing with for a couple years – I just sat down one day and said, 'I'm done.'"

"Done" with pitching perhaps, but certainly not with baseball.

## HOW I MADE IT TO THE MAJORS

**CHIP GRAHAM**
AUDIO VIDEO TECHNICAL MANAGER

ATLANTA BRAVES

BY STEVE FALL

**CHIP GRAHAM** compares the Braves' game entertainment operation at Turner Field to a small broadcast facility.

"We put on a first-class video production for 30,000 to 50,000 people per night," said Graham, the Braves audio video technical manager. "So, it's a big job, and we take it seriously. We have a lot of fun doing it, and it's very exciting work."

Turner Field's audio system and scoreboards are under Graham's control, and he serves as the chief engineer for the video systems. He handles the technical side of the audio system, but not its actual operation.

Graham enjoys the challenge of quickly analyzing systems and troubleshooting problems that arise. He arrives at the ballpark around 10 a.m. for night games, and makes sure all systems are functioning properly. Much of the video equipment is now PC-based. The Braves purchase custom programs that run on high-end PCs to generate the scoreboard's high-definition video content.

Graham first embraced baseball when his family moved to Maryland during his early teenage years. He became a huge Orioles fan of great teams led by Hall of Famers Frank Robinson, Brooks Robinson and Jim Palmer.

"I didn't think at the time that I'd ever be working for a major league club. Now that I am, and have been for over 10 years, I love it," he said.

The 54-year-old Graham began his career in sports after graduating from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He leveraged some college contacts to land an opportunity at ABC in the early 1980s. There he worked with famous announcers like Howard Cosell and Al Michaels.

"I worked as a production assistant for them just through my associations," said Graham. "That's a lot how it works. You know someone and you impress them with certain assets and skills that you have, and they say, 'You ought to work for this guy. Go talk to this guy.'"

Graham had the opportunity to assist on Major League Baseball telecasts for ABC, as well as the NFL, college football, and some prominent golf tournaments. He landed a part-time position with the Orioles in 1985, serving as the technical director for their new Diamond Vision scoreboard display. The next year, he moved on to the Shintron Company, who installed the video control room in Memorial Stadium, where the Orioles played before Camden Yards.

Graham relocated to Georgia in 1994 while working for Mitsubishi Diamond Vision, who purchased his department from the Shintron Company. An opportunity came up with the Braves just before the team moved into Turner Field, and Graham was hired for his current role in March 1997.

He suggests that people seeking similar baseball jobs get as much pertinent education and experience as possible.

"After I graduated, I went back to university and studied television," said Graham. "I knew I was going to be up against people with advanced degrees in journalism and broadcasting."

Gaining production experience is vital, since the game entertainment operation includes high-definition cameras and sophisticated support equipment.

"This is virtually television," said Graham. "So, the people that we would be interested in have TV broadcast experience, such as TV camera operators, tape operators and editors."

# ALUMNI NOTES

- **Hank Aaron** (OF/1B, 1954-74) and **Phil Niekro** (RHP, 1964-83, '87) were among the Hall of Famers honored during a pre-game ceremony prior to the 79th All-Star Game on July 15th at Yankee Stadium. They also participated in the All-Star Game Red Carpet Parade up Sixth Avenue on the day of the game.

- **Brett Butler** (OF, 1981-83), who managed Arizona's Double-A affiliate at Mobile last year until suffering a mild stroke July 29, is serving as the Diamondbacks' minor league outfield-baserunning coordinator.

- **Paul Byrd**'s (RHP, 1997-98, 2004) book "Free Byrd" has been published by Howard Books. The foreword is by John Smoltz. Visit freebyrdbook.com for more information. All author royalties will go to Byrdhouse Ministries, which benefits youth ministries, including orphanages and inner-city programs. The book is selling for $16.31 on amazon.com.

- **Clarence "Cito" Gaston** (OF/1B, 1967, '75-78), who managed Toronto from 1989-97 and led the Blue Jays to World Championships in 1992 and '93, returned as the team's manager June 20, replacing John Gibbons. He'd been a special assistant to the president and CEO.

- **Ken Oberkfell** (3B/2B, 1984-88) was named a coach by the Mets when Jerry Manuel took over as manager for Willie Randolph June 17.

- **Rafael Furcal** (SS, 2000-05) had surgery to repair a herniated disc in his back July 3. The Dodgers say he's out at least eight weeks.

- **Joe Borowski** (RHP, 1996-97), who led the AL in saves (45) last year, was designated for assignment by Cleveland July 4 and released July 10.

- Pittsburgh traded **Craig Wilson** (1B, 2007) from their Triple-A team (Indianapolis) to Seattle July 10 for a player to be named.

- **Oscar Villarreal** (RHP, 2006-07) was designated for assignment by Houston July 2 and placed on waivers after he refused assignment to Triple-A.

- **Dave Johnson** (2B/1B, 1973-75) managed the USA team in the All-Star Futures Game July 13 at Yankee Stadium and will manage Team USA during the Summer Olympics in China.

- **Phil Niekro** (RHP, 1964-83, '87) is scheduled to be a team manager at the Hall of Fame Fantasy Camp Oct. 1-6 at Cooperstown, N.Y., and to participate in the Voices of the Game Series at the Hall of Fame Oct. 3.

- **Orlando Cepeda** (1B, 1969-72), **Bob Gibson** (Coach, 1982-84), **Phil Niekro** (RHP, 1964-83, '87), **Gaylord Perry** (RHP, 1981), **Red Schoendienst** (2B, 1957-60) and **Bruce Sutter** (RHP, 1985-88) were among the Hall of Famers expected in Cooperstown for induction weekend July 26-28.

- **Quilvio Veras** (2B, 2000-01), **Wally Joyner** (1B, 2000), **Merv Rettenmund** (Coach, 2000-01 and **Ed Giovanola** (INF, 1995-97) were among those honored in San Diego July 12 during the 10th anniversary observation of the Padres' second NL pennant that came at the expense of the 1998 Braves.

- The Danville Braves gave away 1,000 **Paul Runge** (INF, 1981-88) bobbleheads on July 12. He's in his fourth season managing the Braves' rookie league team.

- **Hank Aaron** (OF/1B, 1954-74) and his wife, Billye, will serve as hosts for the City of Memphis' annual Hank Aaron Celebrity Sports Weekend to benefit the United Negro College Fund/UNCF and the LeMoyne-Owen College Aug. 21-23. Events include the 38th annual UNCF Gala Banquet on Aug. 21 at 7 p.m.

- Kansas City signed **Jose Capellan** (RHP, 2004) to a minor league contract.

- **Tony Graffanino** (INF, 1996-98) signed a minor league contract with Cleveland.

## BIRTHDAYS

### AUGUST

| | |
|---|---|
| 1ST | FREDDY GARCIA (36) |
| 2ND | PAUL MARAK (43) |
| 3RD | SID BREAM (48) |
| 4TH | JOE PIGNATANO (79) |
| | B.J. SURHOFF (44) |
| 6TH | TOMMY REIS (94) |
| | ANDY MESSERSMITH (63) |
| | BOB HORNER (51) |
| | STAN BELINDA (42) |
| | KEITH MITCHELL (39) |
| 7TH | RAY CRONE (77) |
| | BRIAN KOWITZ (39) |
| | EDGAR RENTERIA (33) |
| | TYLER YATES (31) |
| 8TH | CLIFF SPECK (52) |
| | JOHN HUDEK (42) |
| | MATT WHITESIDE (41) |
| 9TH | TED SIMMONS (59) |
| | DEION SANDERS (41) |
| 10TH | GERALD WILLIAMS (42) |
| | **JORGE CAMPILLO (30)** |
| | JOSH ANDERSON (26) |
| 11TH | LUIS OLMO (89) |
| 12TH | DEAN HARTGRAVES (42) |
| | ISMAEL VILLEGAS (32) |
| 13TH | BOB GIGGIE (75) |
| | TONY CLONINGER (68) |
| | MARK LEMKE (43) |
| | ROMAN COLON (29) |
| | **WILL OHMAN (31)** |
| 15TH | JOEY JAY (73) |
| | JOE COWLEY (50) |
| 16TH | MIKE JORGENSEN (60) |
| 17TH | KELLY MANN (41) |
| | ADAM BUTLER (35) |
| | JEFF RIDGWAY (28) |
| 18TH | BRUCE BENEDICT (53) |
| | TERRY BLOCKER (49) |
| | ALBIE LOPEZ (37) |
| | KEVIN BARRY (30) |
| | JASON PERRY (28) |
| 19TH | LUIS GOMEZ (57) |
| | TERRY HARPER (53) |
| | NED YOST (53) |
| | MATT FRANCO (39) |
| | LANCE CORMIER (28) |
| 20TH | CRAIG NETTLES (64) |
| 21ST | FELIX MILLAN (65) |
| | CRAIG ROBINSON (60) |
| | DERRIN EBERT (32) |
| | JASON MARQUIS (30) |
| 22ND | MILT HILL (43) |
| | CARL SCHUTZ (37) |
| 23RD | JULIO FRANCO (50) |
| | RANDY ST. CLAIRE (48) |
| 24TH | EVERETT STULL (37) |
| | RAFAEL FURCAL (30) |
| 25TH | ODDIBE MCDOWELL (46) |
| 26TH | ALEX TREVINO (51) |
| | JEFF PARRETT (47) |
| | VICTOR ROSARIO (42) |
| 27TH | ANDY PRATT (29) |
| 28TH | TONY GONZALEZ (72) |
| | BOB HARTMAN (71) |
| | BILLY COWAN (70) |
| 29TH | DAVE COLE (78) |
| | DAVE NICHOLSON (69) |
| | DAN SCHNEIDER (66) |
| | HENRY BLANCO (37) |
| 30TH | FRANK FUNK (73) |
| | MIKE MCQUEEN (58) |
| | RANDY O'NEAL (48) |
| 31ST | DANNY LITWHILER (92) |
| | RAMON HERNANDEZ (68) |
| | BILL NAHORODNY (55) |
| | CLAUDELL WASHINGTON (54) |
| | TIM DREW (30) |

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER

# ART APPRECIATION

**CATCHERS** are a rare breed, from the bulky protective gear they must wear for half the game... to the awkward squat in which they have to position themselves for each pitch... to the unique set of skills they need to master in order to play in the majors.

It is one of these skills, entirely unique to catchers, that we are here to discuss. That skill, perhaps the most overlooked in baseball, is catching the popups hit directly over or directly behind home plate.

What's so difficult or unusual about catching a little ol' popup?

Generally, nothing. But these are different. Not only do catchers have to come up out of the crouch, pull off that darned mask, and find the ball somewhere above the tiers of seats and fans, but then they have to determine where the ball is coming down and toss that mask in the other direction before the real fun starts.

You see, getting under those popups and catching them with a bulky mitt designed for snagging zipping fastballs and dipping breaking pitches is a lot more challenging than it seems to most fans. The reason is that - unlike other flyballs and popups - these balls reach their apex and then do the funniest thing. Instead of falling away from home plate and the batter, they spin violently back toward the plate and the catcher.

The biggest mistake a catcher can make is to go chasing wildly after a popup. If he does that, chances are he'll wind up looking foolish as it drops behind him. Worse yet, he'll fall on his behind while trying to reach back to catch it as it spins over his nose. Once the ball gets over the catcher's head, he's usually lost, and the batter gets another chance.

Catchers get their kicks in spring training by inviting other players to join popup drills. For the inexperienced, it's a good way to learn how to do an impression of a drunken sailor.

"Once the ball gets to its highest point, you want to be behind it and slow your body down," said backup catcher Corky Miller. "I'm sure every catcher has fallen on his butt because of the way the ball spins. You feel worse if you fall than if you drop it. But each one is different, and it's still nerve racking to me."

Third base coach Brian Snitker, a former minor league catcher, carries a constant reminder of chasing foul pops.

"That's how I got this," Snitker said, pointing to a small scar on his chin. "I was chasing one in Charlotte and slammed into the fence with my face. I broke two teeth, and the next thing I knew, I was at the hospital getting stitched up."

Such an accident is something catchers are more aware of now that teams are moving the backstop closer to the plate in order to accommodate luxury seats that afford fans an umpire's view.

Bullpen coach Eddie Perez, also a former catcher, drew blood doing popup duty, too.

"It was my first spring training," he said. "There were six or seven catchers standing around taking popups. One of them threw his mask and hit me in the mouth. That's when the masks were really heavy, too. I was bleeding so bad that they canceled the drill."

Miller says that's exactly why catchers are now told to leave their masks in the dugout during popup drills.

"Nowadays, we don't use the mask in drills, because of the instinct to throw it," said Miller. "With 10 guys standing around, that's asking for trouble."

Perhaps even harder than catching these popups is trying to hit them for catchers to practice their technique. It's a good way for a coach to throw out his back. Few can do it well, but fortunately there's now a machine that does the work.

If someone wants the real deal, however, it's good to call on Perez, who says he has the art of hitting foul popups with a fungo bat mastered.

"That's because I hit so many of them when I was at bat as a player!" he said.

Perez, always quick with a one-liner, knows that while hitting popups is good joke material, trying to catch them most certainly is not.

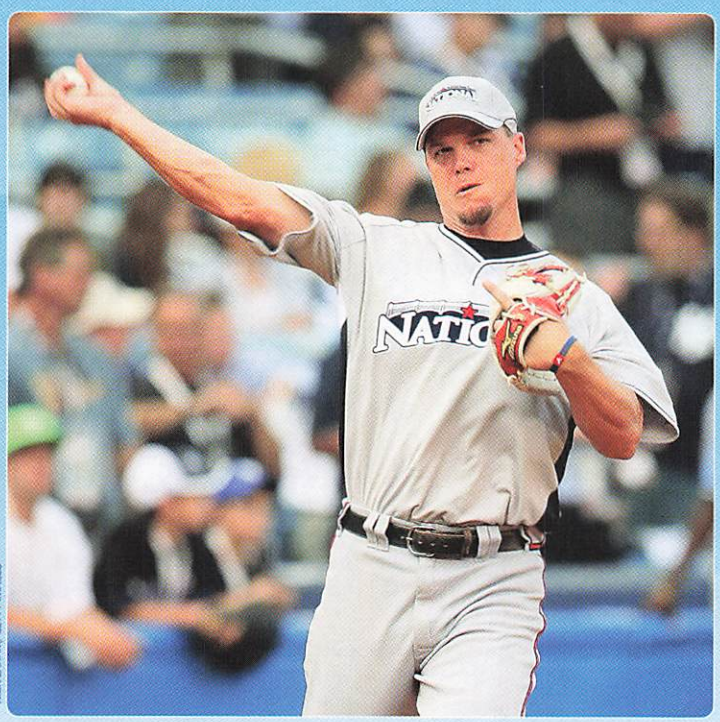
**THIS ISSUE OF CHOPTALK** was mailed July 24. The September issue will be mailed Aug. 21.

# BEYOND BASEBALL

BY **PATTY RASMUSSEN**

Chipper gets loose during the National League's workout at Yankee Stadium the day before the All-Star Game.

## BRONX TALE



NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

**LARRY AND LYNNE JONES** don't leave the Double Dime Ranch too often, but they gladly made the trip from West Texas to the Big Apple to take part in the Major League Baseball All-Star Game festivities with their son, **Chipper**, who was overwhelmingly voted the starting third baseman for the National League. Chipper's wife, **Sharon**, and his agent, **B.B. Abbott**, were also in New York for the events. Since the Braves were finishing their West Coast road trip prior to the All-Star Game, Chipper provided transportation via private jet from San Diego to New York for fellow All-Star **Brian McCann** and his wife, **Ashley**, and Braves trainer, **Jeff Porter**, who was chosen to serve as a trainer for the NL in the Midsummer Classic at Yankee Stadium. This was Porter's second All-Star Game. He also worked the 1996 game at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium.

**JOE SIMPSON AND HIS FAMILY,** wife **Kathy**, daughter **Meg**, and son **Gabe**, made their annual visit to Bethany Beach, Delaware, over the All-Star break with other members of Kathy's family...

At the request of his youngest child, **Trinity** (7), **Terry Pendleton** and his family, wife **Katherine**, daughter **Stephanie** and son **Terry**, took a trip to Disney World in Orlando, over the All-Star break. "She wanted to visit Blizzard Beach, Animal Kingdom and the Magic Kingdom," said Pendleton, who tries to steer clear of theme parks during the two months he's in Orlando for spring training...

**Gregor Blanco** used the All-Star break to visit family in Caracas, Venezuela. **Peter Moylan**, on the disabled list while rehabbing from surgery, visited family in Australia, including his daughters, **Montana** and **Matisse**...

SPECIAL

Three-month-old Anna Grace Diaz enjoys posing on top of a mountain of toys at the Christmas in July Toy Drive held in Monument Grove at Turner Field July 1-3.

**Mike Gonzalez**, who returned to pitching after a year-long break due to elbow surgery, made his comeback when the Braves played the Texas Rangers in Arlington, June 17-19. Over 50 family members and friends were in the stands. "I saw people there I hadn't seen since elementary school," said Gonzalez, a Texas native, who spent his All-Star break relaxing with his parents and sisters near Houston...

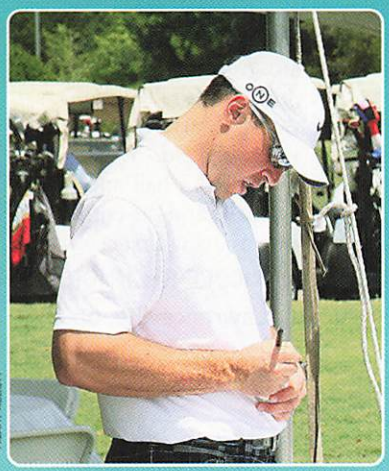
**Blaine** and **Ginsey Boyer** closed on the home they sold and the one they bought over the All-Star break. Their new home brings them back to the east Cobb area of metro Atlanta where Boyer was raised...

**Lynn Cadahia** (wife of bench coach **Chino**) and daughter, **Lauren**, visited with **Ashley Saltalamacchia** (wife of former Braves catcher **Jarrod**) and her two daughters, **Sidney** (18 months) and **Hunter** (6 months), when the Braves played the Texas Rangers in late June...

**Jeff Francoeur** and his wife, **Catie**, spent their All-Star break at their vacation home in Seaside, Fla. Catie worked on the place, painting and decorating, during the weeks prior to the break...

The **Tom Glavine** family made the West Coast trip to Los Angeles and San Diego prior to the All-Star break. Making the cross-country trip were Glavine's wife, **Chris**, daughter **Amber** and sons **Peyton** and **Mason**. Chris' son, **Jonathan**,

# TEE TIME



HILARY ABBOTT

**THE MARK TEIXEIRA** (above) Charitable Foundation hosted Prevent Child Abuse Georgia's (PCAG) Celebrity Golf Classic, June 30, at White Columns Country Club. Golfers included Teixeira, **Corky Miller** and **Jo-Jo Reyes**, and former Braves **Greg McMichael**, **Alejandro Pena**, **Pete Smith** and **Zane Smith**. The event raised over $130,000. The live and silent auction featured unique items, including an autographed copy of the book, Wisdom of our Fathers, written by the late **Tim Russert**, which sold for $950. A private dance lesson with **Tony Dovolani** from "Dancing with the Stars" went for $850. Prevent Child Abuse Georgia also gave a donation to Teixeira's foundation which he then gave to the Police Athletic League, a longstanding Major League Baseball charity.

was on a trip to the British Virgin Islands with his dad and was unable to travel to Southern California.

**Tim Hudson**'s wife, **Kim**, and daughters **Kennedie** and **Tess** traveled to Costa Rica for the July 11 wedding of Tim's niece, **Holly Hudson**. Holly married **Travis Bell**, former Georgia Tech placekicker. Kim and the girls were in Costa Rica from July 5-12. Three-year-old son **Kade** remained behind at his grandparent's home in Alabama since Tim was on the Braves' road trip. The Hudsons spent the All-Star break enjoying their almost completed cabin at Kenteska Plantation, their farm in Alabama (Feb. '08 CT)...

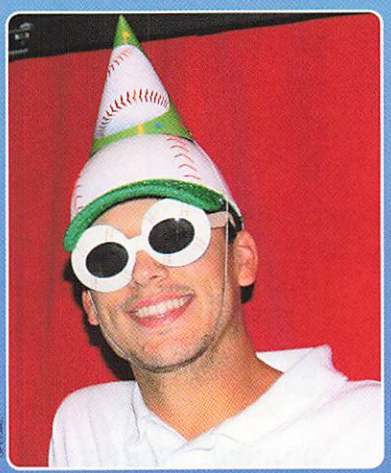
Senior baseball advisor **Bobby Dews** was featured in a story, "Making Time Stand Still," found on ESPN.com about Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home, a hospice located directly behind Turner Field. Dews often provides Braves tickets to the sisters and residents who enjoy baseball...

**Dave Pursley**, former long-time Braves trainer, was inducted into the National Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame on June 28 in St. Louis. Pursley served as assistant/head athletic trainer of the Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves from 1961-2002. His wife, **Ruth**, and sons, **Neil** and **Gary**, also attended the ceremony...

**Bobby Cox** stayed close to home during the All-Star break, shuttling between his home in Atlanta and the farm in Adairsville, Ga. Cox said he kept busy with an extensive "honey-do" list provided by his wife, **Pam**...

**Tom** and **Chris Glavine** are each hosting events in September, designated National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, to benefit one of their favorite causes, CURE Childhood Cancer. Tom will have his 11th Annual Field of Dreams Golf Tournament on Sept. 8 at the Country Club of the South. At press time, several foursomes, priced at $6,000, were still available. In addition to breakfast with Glavine and a post-tournament live auction and reception, each golfer receives a gift bag that includes a bottle of Silver Oak wine and other items from event sponsors. **Bruce Berthelsen**, event coordinator, said Braves players past and present are expected to play. For more information, call Berthelsen at (770) 250-0181. Chris once again hosts the Tribute to Our Quiet Heroes, a luncheon honoring the mothers and caregivers of children with cancer. The event, which includes a spectacular silent auction, will be held Sept. 20 at the Grand Hyatt in Buckhead. The special guest this year will be **Julie Reichert**, a two-time Oscar nominated filmmaker, whose documentary about childhood cancer, "A Lion in the House," won an Emmy Award. Reichert is also the mother of a child who survived cancer. Reservations for the luncheon are $125 and are available at the event website, quietheroes.org...

Braves trainer **Jeff Porter**, assistant trainer **Jim Lovell** and **Tom Glavine** joined forces with the PLAY Campaign (Promoting a Lifetime of Activity for Youth) to challenge kids to put away their video games and head outdoors for fun. Over 100 children, ages 9-13, spent two hours at Turner Field on July 1, learning about the dangers of performance enhancing drugs, running agility drills, performing stretching exercises in the outfield, and taking their cuts in the indoor batting cages.



SPECIAL

# BIG LEAGUE WELCOME

**IT TOOK** the better part of a day for **Charlie Morton** (above) to get from Richmond to Anaheim when he made his major league debut on June 14. Unable to find any flights from Richmond that would connect him to Southern California, Morton drove to Washington, D.C., to get a non-stop flight that arrived at 2:30 a.m. Meanwhile, an army of approximately 25 family and friends also descended on Anaheim from the Northeast for Morton's pitching debut. His parents, **Chip** and **Jeanne**, sister **Jennie**, and girlfriend, **Cindy Weil**, were all there. "We had very little time to visit with Charlie," said Jeanne, "But it was a really exciting, fun, and an all-around wonderful night!" After the game, the group took over a local restaurant for an impromptu celebration. It didn't take much to coax Morton, punchy from lack of sleep, into wearing a goofy ball cap and glasses.

# TALKIN' CHOP

LETTERS & PHOTOS FROM OUR READERS

WHETHER YOU'RE HAVING FUN AT TURNER FIELD, EXPERIENCING A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH YOUR FAVORITE BRAVES PLAYER, OR JUST SHOWING OFF YOUR COLLECTION OF BRAVES STUFF OR TRYING ON YOUR NEW BRAVES SHIRT, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT AND SEE A PICTURE.

## PRAYER ANSWERED

We catch the Braves every chance we get when they play near us. My 5-year-old son, Maddox Nolan, and 8-year-old daughter, Emma, attended the May 31 game against the Reds at Great American Ballpark. We were so excited when Will Ohman pointed at Maddox and handed a ball to him during batting practice. Mr. Ohman took the time to ask Maddox's name and told him how nice it was to meet him! As my son opened his mouth to speak, I was silently praying that he wouldn't ask Mr. Ohman to get Chipper Jones' autograph. All Maddox could say was, "I got a real live baseball from a real live baseball player!" We think he's destined to play in the big leagues.

TERRE POHLAR
Terre Haute, Ind.

## JOIN THE CROWD

My dad introduced me to baseball at an early age. I began watching the Braves in the '80s, and there's never been another team for me - even before "worst to first"! I enjoy ChopTalk so much. I still have a copy from when the Braves won the World Series in 1995. I really like the section with letters and photos that fans send in.

BETTY TORRELL
Mobile, Ala.

## MEET THE COACH

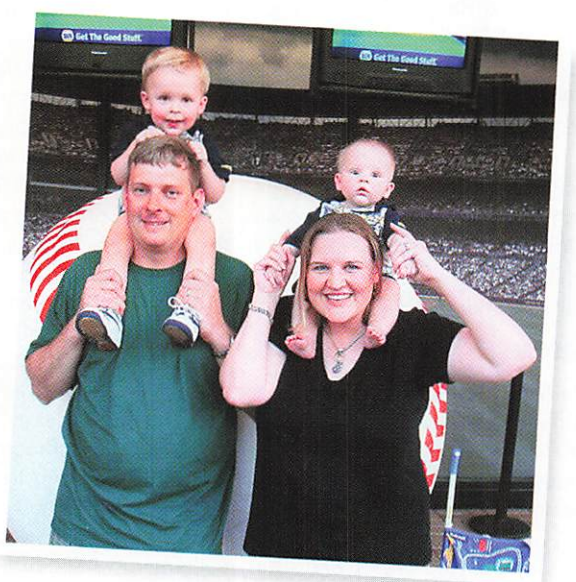
Our family recently attended a Braves game, and our daughter, Nicole (a huge Braves fan), had the pleasure of meeting Glenn Hubbard. Nicole participates in softball with the special population program at Grayson Athletic Association. One of the coaches with the league is Matt Hubbard (Glenn's son). Matt arranged for Nicole to meet his dad during "walk the field." What a special moment it was for her. He signed a ball and a Braves hat and showed our family why he and the entire Braves organization are looked upon as being first class.

DAVID, KAREN AND NICOLE RECKNOR
Lawrenceville, Ga.

## FAMILY FUN

Our family was able to come to the Braves-Phillies game June 7. It was the first game for our 6-month-old son, Hunter. Our 2-year-old son, Luke, has been to several games and thinks any baseball player he sees is Chipper. He carries around my Braves Cabbage Patch Kid from 20 years ago and calls him Chipper. It was so much fun for them to see Chipper hit his 401st home run! They may be too young to remember this forever, but as a lifetime Braves fan, it will be a favorite family memory for me.

DAWN HIGGINBOTHAM
Birmingham, Ala.



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## DRAFTED!

My grandson, Mason Anderson, is 15 months old. He has no choice - he has to be a Braves fan.

CHERYL ANDERSON
Pensacola, Fla

## EXTENDING THE LINE

This is long-time Braves fan Lindsay Bullock proudly holding her newborn nephew, Mason McGee, who is all decked out in his first Braves uniform. Mason comes from a long line of Braves fans, and his mom and dad, Carly and Bobby McGee, are looking forward to taking him to his first game.

AMY BULLOCK
Ripley, Miss

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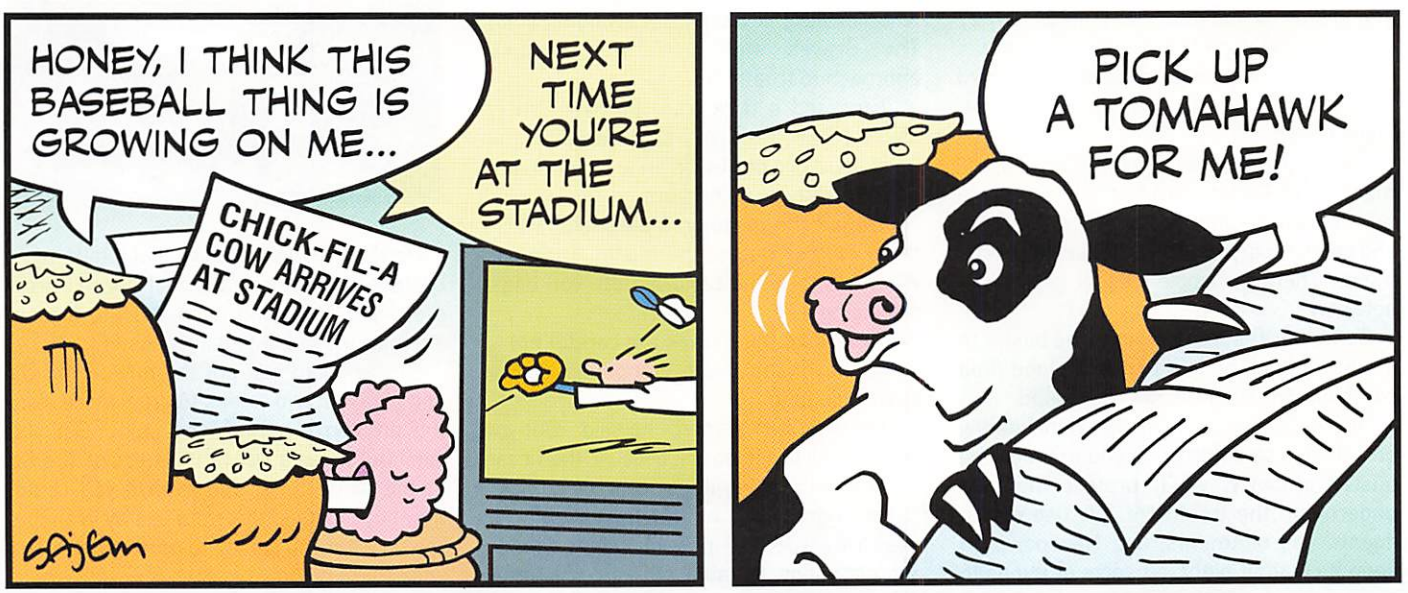

HONEY, I THINK THIS BASEBALL THING IS GROWING ON ME...
NEXT TIME YOU'RE AT THE STADIUM...
CHICK-FIL-A COW ARRIVES AT STADIUM
PICK UP A TOMAHAWK FOR ME!

# "BLISTER-ITIS" CAN BE A REAL PAIN!

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

**PROBABLY SINCE** the beginning of baseball, pitchers (and coaches and trainers) have sought remedies for finger blisters.

"It's such a stupid injury," said rookie Jair Jurrjens, who was hit with a bout of "blister-itis" in May and remembers where he was when he felt it develop.

"It was the seventh inning in a game against the Mets (May 21)," said Jurrjens, who had a large friction blister on the side of his thumb that seemed to hamper him for two starts. "It really popped up during an at-bat against (Jose) Reyes. Thank God, Endy Chavez hit a popup, and we got out of the inning."

Pitchers, especially starting pitchers, can develop blisters from the repetitive friction between their hand and the hard baseball. Jo-Jo Reyes, Jorge Campillo and Jurrjens all suffered with blisters this year, within days of each other.

"A friction blister is what is commonly known as a water blister," said Braves head trainer Jeff Porter. "A spot on the skin becomes too hot from friction. Friction creates heat, and the body tries to cool that spot by sending fluid to cool it down.

"A blood blister is created by pinching. The spot begins to bleed under the skin, in addition to having fluid buildup. We had both those types (Jurrjens/friction, Campillo/blood). We also had a blister under a callus (Reyes), and those are the worst kind. The callus makes it tougher to treat the blister."

Campillo had to be pulled after the fourth inning May 24 and after five innings May 29 due to a blister on the middle finger of his right hand. Reyes had to leave in the third inning May 8 due to a blister on his left index finger.

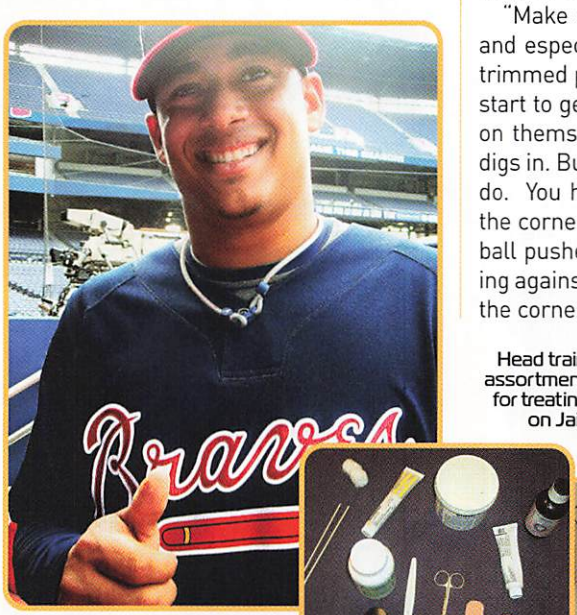
"This is a gross oversimplification of treatment," said Porter, "but basically there are two steps to treating a blister - drain them and get them dry, and then protect (manage) them. There's a whole lot that goes on in between."

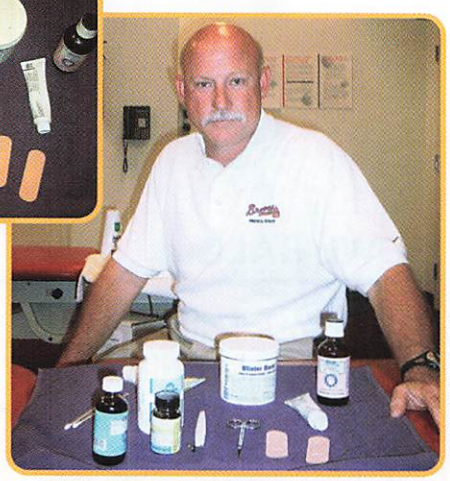
Generally, the trainer opens the blister to drain the fluid, be it water or a blood/fluid combination. Then the skin is treated.

"It's essential to keep the skin healthy and clean," said Porter. "If you manage the blister properly, you'll protect the skin underneath the treatment. We use drying agents and ointments, like Neosporin, to keep it clean at night, all sorts of things to bring a guy along. Treatment is developed according to the player."

Believe it or not, folk remedies for toughening the skin include such things as immersing the blistered fingers in pickle brine and even urinating on them. And these remedies usually work, says Porter.

"Pickle brine is usually pretty salty, so it dries out the blisters," said Porter, who didn't comment on Mets outfielder Moises Alou's well-publicized remedy of urinating on his hands when blisters develop from swinging a bat. The Braves staff prefers a medical approach to treatment.





PHOTOS: PATTY RASMUSSEN

Head trainer Jeff Porter (below) needs a wide assortment of ointments, compounds and tools for treating blisters like the one that developed on Jair Jurrjens' thumb (L) in late May.

"I learned a trick from (former Braves trainer) Dave Pursley," said Porter. "I mix up alum, a powder that's an astringent, and benzoin compound tincture.

"We put the paste on a band-aid, and in three or four hours, the blister dries out. When we take the band-aid off, you begin managing it."

Porter said the Braves are careful not to leave the drying paste compound on the blister too long.

"You want it to harden," he said. "But you don't want it to get too dry, because then it can crack, and the skin will come off too quickly."

The ingredients in the mixture Porter uses are also found in Stan's Rodeo Cream, a prescription formula recently marketed by former rodeo rider and Los Angeles Dodgers athletic trainer, Stan Johnston.

"I like to mix my own, but when you're on the road and you have a rash of blisters, having that tube of cream sure was handy," Porter said.

There are two things Porter recommends pitchers do to minimize development of blisters: Trim their fingernails properly and grow or develop thick calluses.

"Make sure the nail on the index finger and especially the long (middle) finger are trimmed properly," said Porter. "Most guys start to get a problem and then they take it on themselves to trim the nail, because it digs in. But that's exactly the wrong thing to do. You have to let the nail grow out past the corner of the nail bed so that when the ball pushes against the skin, it's not pushing against the corner of the nail. Generally, the corner is further out and rounded."

Porter said the only thing that totally heals blisters is new skin, and that doesn't grow overnight. Time and need are the biggest enemies in the fight against blisters.

"If you could just put the guy on the DL and give him two weeks to grow more skin, the problem's solved," he said. "But you can't put three guys with blisters on the DL at the same time, and even if you could, they have to keep throwing to stay in shape. You do what you can do to protect them and keep them going."

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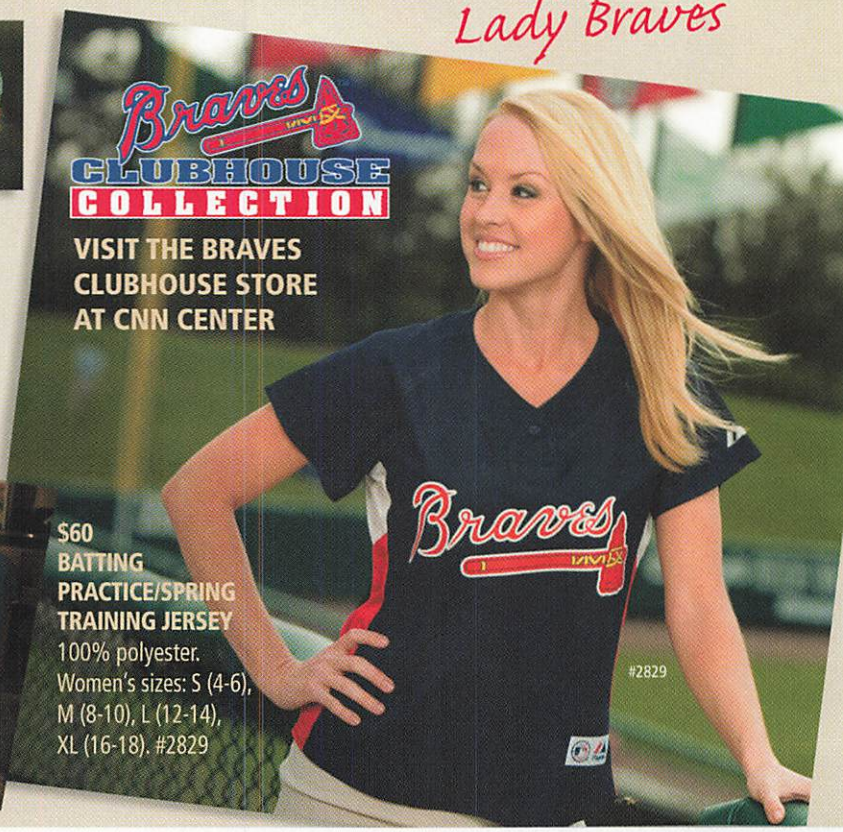


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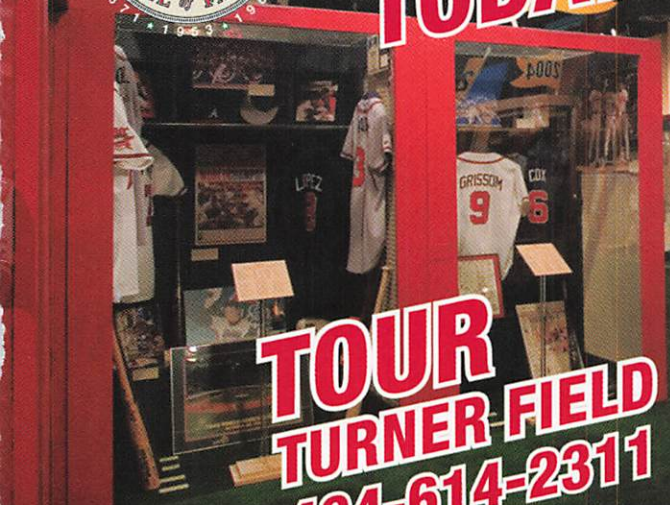
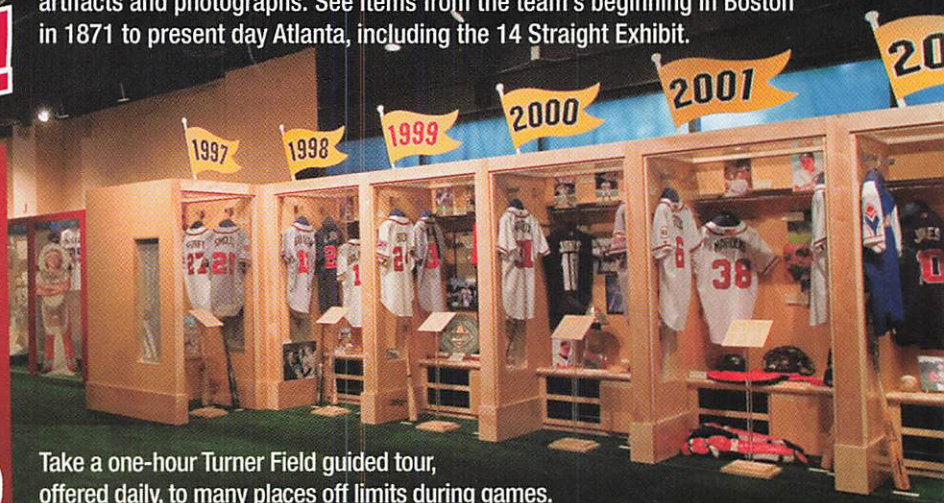
Visit the Braves Museum at AISLE 134 and view more than 600 Braves artifacts and photographs. See items from the team's beginning in Boston in 1871 to present day Atlanta, including the 14 Straight Exhibit.

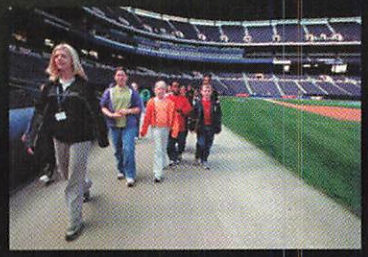


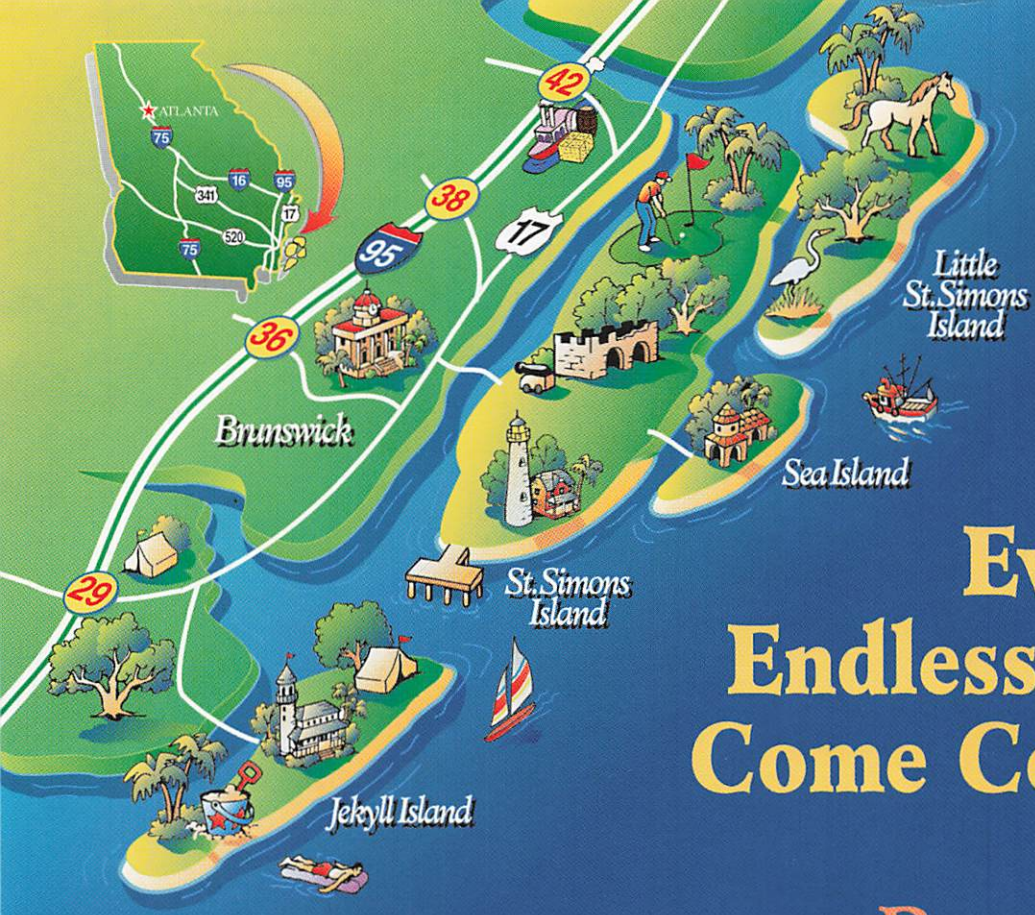




# TOUR TURNER FIELD 404-614-2311

Take a one-hour Turner Field guided tour, offered daily, to many places off limits during games. Group and school tours are offered year-round, including specialized tours on the subjects of math, social studies, art and careers in sports. Call 404-614-2311.

HOME OF THE BRAVES
TURNER FIELD



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